



The Enemy is Inside the Gate

by Philip van Wassenaer, Past President

In a recent conversation about the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), a colleague mentioned the quote above and it stuck in my mind ever since. This newly discovered exotic insect is inside the gate to North America. With its discovery in both Michigan and Ontario in July 2002, it is clear that this insect is already firmly established in the landscape. In recent weeks, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in Ohio and in several locations outside of the quarantine zone established in Essex County, Ontario. The true extent of the infestation is not fully understood.

The EAB is native to China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia and was most likely transported here in some form of wood packing materials. It appears that the original infestation occurred in Michigan where some trees appear to have died up to two years ago. The infestations in the Windsor area are more recent.

The insect is aggressive and will take vigorous trees as well as stressed trees. It is not size selective and has been found in nursery stock, young trees and mature specimens alike. It will attack both forest and street trees. Once the larvae are in the tree, extensive, lethal damage occurs as they feed in the cambial region and leave behind serpentine feeding galleries. Eventually the tree is girdled as the feeding galleries coalesce.

The adults are a metallic green colour and they leave a distinctive 'D' shaped exit hole in the tree when they emerge after pupation. Larvae are distinctly segmented and can overwinter at all stages. They feed extensively throughout the summer until the arrival of cooler fall temperatures.

This insect is a serious threat to all species of ash and may have affinities for several other North American species. This is not a threat to be taken lightly. Without an aggressive effort to quarantine and eradicate this insect, we may see the next Dutch elm disease like decline in the near future. Take the time to visit some or all of the websites below and read them carefully. Be vigilant in your neighbourhood and report any suspicious findings immediately to the CFIA.

Please take the time to remain informed about this important issue.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency - CFIA

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveq/for/pestrava/agrplae.shtml>

NRC- Forest Health Alert

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/forests/foresthealth/emerald%20borer/HlthAlert-3.pdf>

http://www.msue.msu.edu/reg_se/roberts/ash/

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/eab/index.html>

<http://www.ncpmc.org/NewsAlerts/emeraldashborer.html>

http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-2961_2968_18323---,00.html