

## Help Us Save Our Ashes

The emerald ash borer, a devastating pest of native ash trees, was found last year at the U.S. National Arboretum and at the Kenilworth Aquatic Garden across the Anacostia River. When adult ash borers emerge from infested trees, this ½ inch beetle can fly at least half a mile, putting the Arboretum's 200 ash trees at great risk over the next few years. We are monitoring our trees and have treated a few highly valued specimens, but have a long way to go to protect our full complement of ash trees. Not only are these trees a beautiful part of our collections—particularly in the Asian collections and our native woodlands—they have enormous value for future plant breeding and research. As part of our mission to advance environmental horticulture, we are committed to conserving and improving important urban trees. We must protect the ash trees at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Ash trees are best protected before damage appears. Research is being conducted throughout the areas of current infestation (including cities and woodlands in the Midwest, through the mid-South and Northeast) with the goal of introducing natural predators to fight emerald ash borer; however current best management is to inject the root zone with insecticides. Alternatively, trees already infested with larvae that are actively feeding directly under the bark can be controlled by a systemic insecticide injected to the trunk area. Both treatments are expensive and need to be done every other year when infestation risk is high.

\$50,000 is needed to treat the native ash trees at the Arboretum over the next two cycles. We need your help to quickly implement this effort to save our ash trees. Please donate to protect our beautiful ash trees and preserve the valuable genetic resources which may be useful in discovering ways to fight this growing assault on an iconic American tree.

Please send your contributions noting the purpose of your donation to the U.S. National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002 or [click here](#) to visit the donations page.

Thank you,

Colien Hefferan, Director

U.S. National Arboretum, ARS-USDA