

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Ash Tree Identification

The Emerald Ash Borer attacks only **ASH** trees (*Fraxinus* species). Green and white ash, the most common species, as well as blue and black, Carolina and pumpkin are all susceptible.

- ◆ Other species, including trees with “ash” in their name (like mountain-ash), are **NOT** attacked by EAB.
 - ◆ Other species have similar leaves, like hickory or walnut, but are **NOT** related to ash or attacked by EAB
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1. All ash trees have opposite buds/leaves/branches, while most other species have alternate buds etc. Branches and buds are directly across for each other, not staggered.



Confusion? A few other tree species (maples, dogwoods, horsechestnut) have opposite branching but most have completely different leaves.



2. Ash leaves are compound and have 5 to 11 leaflets per leaf. Some have smooth leaf edges and some are toothed.



Confusion? Boxelder is a maple and has opposite leaves, but it has 3-5 leaflets. Other tree species with compound leaves do **NOT** have opposite leaves or branches.



3. Ash trees when mature have gray bark with distinctive ridges while the young tree bark is relatively smooth.



Confusion? There are quite a few tree species with bark that looks similar to ash trees, but most of them do **NOT** have opposite or compound leaves. Black walnut has compound leaves and furrowed bark but it is **NOT** oppositely-leaved.



4. Ash seeds can be seen in the fall to winter. They appear as clusters of oar-shaped seeds that start as green in color and change to brown.



Confusion? There shouldn't be, as nothing really looks like an ash seed. Maple seeds are paired wings but even singly do not look like an oar.



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If you use all the characteristics of ash: **opposite buds**, compound leaves, furrowed bark and *oar-shaped seeds*, you shouldn't find yourself confusing ash trees with other species.

Just in case: Trees that have similarities to ash



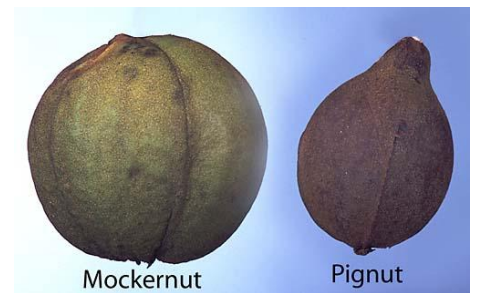
Boxelder (maple species) – opposite branches and compound leaves **BUT** only 3-5 leaflets, and the seeds are doubled, and look like wings, not single, and look like oars.



Mountainash – compound leaves with toothed edges **BUT** with alternate branches, and orange berries for seeds



Hickory – all hickories and pecan have compound leaves **BUT** with alternate branches, and the seeds are hard-shelled nuts inside a green husk.



Black walnut – compound leaves with 15-23 leaflets (top)
Butternut – compound leaves with 11-19 leaflets (bottom)
BUT like hickories, alternate branches and a hard-shelled nut inside a green husk



For more information, see these websites or contact your NCFCS County Ranger:

http://ncforestservice.gov/contacts/contacts_main.htm



Official EAB website: www.emeraldashborer.info

US Forest Service: <http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/eab>

Other ash borers: http://ashalert.osu.edu/userfiles/native_borers.pdf

EAB Pest Alert: www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/eab.pdf

Don't Move Firewood: <http://www.dontmovefirewood.org>

