

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 branches and only 3-5 leaflets, and look like wings, oars.



species) – opposite compound leaves **BUT** the seeds are doubled, not single, and look like



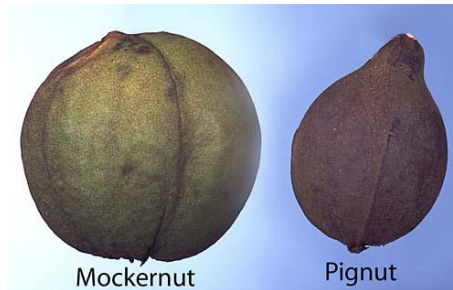
Mountainash – toothed branches, and orange



compound leaves with edges **BUT** with alternate berries for seeds



Hickory – alternate hard-husk.



all hickories and pecan have compound leaves **BUT** with branches, and the seeds are shelled nuts inside a green



Black walnut – leaflets (top)
Butternut – leaflets (bottom)
BUT like hickories, hard-shelled nut



compound leaves with 15-23
compound leaves with 11-19
alternate branches and a
inside a green husk

For more information, see these websites or contact your NCFS 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>



