



## EAB Stories and Lessons Learned...

*Learning and sharing how communities are  
responding to Emerald Ash Borer*

### Part X: Research

#### **Does EAB prefer certain ash species and cultivars? Is their preference affected by planting depth?**

These are two questions Dr. T. Davis Sydnor, Professor of Ecosystems Management at Ohio State University (OSU), is currently researching in his Emerald Ash Borer Host Preference Study. This cooperative project between the City of Toledo and OSU is looking to see if certain ash species are preferred by EAB and if planting depth (a common urban stressor) affects EAB susceptibility. Twenty different ash species and cultivars are represented in the study. Ten trees of each species (200 trees total) were planted along Manhattan Boulevard in Toledo to best simulate the urban environment. Several of the species included a planting depth variable. Half of the trees with in each set were planted 4 inches too deep. One variable that may or may not affect EAB susceptibility for this study is the fact that almost all of the species and cultivars used were grown on green ash root stock.

Only external symptoms such as D-shaped exit holes were used to determine infestation and all ash were left unpeeled. It is still early in the study to identify any meaningful results. As of late 2007, the majority of ash species showed infestation whether they were planted correctly or planted too deep, offering no clear infestation trends as of yet. The project is still ongoing; thus, final results of the research are not yet available.

- Discovered only in 2002, EAB research is in its infancy stage. More studies need to be done on the actual insect, its hosts and its potential management options.
- Make sure you are aware of all the research data, not just what was extrapolated. Review the actual study and any similar research before making management decisions as results can vary among and within studies.

For the most comprehensive EAB related research, visit <http://emeraldashborer.info/Research.cfm> .

For a resource to help your community and residents utilize research data, visit the Emerald Ash Borer Toolkit link at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/eab/> (Chapter 7 - Control).

For a more detailed version of this story visit [Lesson's Shared - Journal Entry 7](#).

**Please share what your community is doing to prepare for EAB with others. Send ideas to Olivia Witthun, Urban Forestry Assistant [olivia.witthun@wi.gov](mailto:olivia.witthun@wi.gov) .**

*The tenth entry of EAB Stories and Lessons Learned was compiled by Northeast Region Urban Forestry Assistant Olivia Witthun and South Central Urban Forestry Assistant Kathy Gonzalez.*