

# Ash

(*Fraxinus spp.*)

Deciduous shade tree common in Colorado landscapes. Ash are highly vulnerable to borers—especially **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**—as well as several native borers, fungal leaf issues, and environmental stress.



## Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons:  Spring |  Summer |  Fall |  Winter

### Problem

**Emerald ash borer (EAB)**

**Lilac-ash borer**

**Banded ash borer**

**Redheaded ash borer**

### Type

Insect/borer

Insect/borer

Insect/borer

Insect/borer

### Active Season

Late Spring–Summer

Spring–Summer (adult flight)

Early Spring

Spring–Fall

### Icons



<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Ash bark beetle	Insect/borer	Late Spring–Summer	 
Ash anthracnose	Fungus	Cool, wet Spring	
Ash rust	Fungus	Spring infection, visible late Spring–Summer	 
Environmental leaf scorch / decline	Abiotic	Summer drought	

## Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment &amp; Management</u>
Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinning canopy</li> <li>• “D-shaped” exit holes</li> <li>• Epicormic sprouts at trunk base</li> <li>• Woodpecker activity &amp; bark flecking</li> <li>• Branch dieback</li> <li>• Clear-wing moth; larvae tunnel in trunk</li> <li>• Sawdust-like frass at trunk base</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systemic trunk injections (every 2–3 yrs; pros only)</li> <li>• Treat BEFORE infestation symptoms for best survival</li> <li>• Remove severely infested trees—beetle spreads quickly</li> <li>• Preventive trunk sprays in spring (pros)</li> <li>• Reduce stress: water deeply, avoid wounding trunk</li> <li>• Remove severely infested limbs</li> <li>• Improve vigor: watering, mulch</li> <li>• Preventive sprays when needed (pros)</li> <li>• Typically secondary—manage stress first</li> </ul>
Lilac–Ash Borer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early spring activity</li> <li>• Exit holes similar to other borers</li> <li>• Damage often in recently stressed trees</li> <li>• Tunneling in recently stressed or newly planted trees</li> <li>• Round exit holes</li> <li>• Rapid decline under severe infestation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same protocol as above: reduce stress, water</li> <li>• Professional preventive trunk spray if high risk</li> <li>• Remove dying trees</li> </ul>
Banded Ash Borer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top-down dieback</li> <li>• Small pinholes in bark</li> <li>• Fine boring dust</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watering &amp; stress reduction is critical</li> <li>• Remove dead branches promptly</li> <li>• Preventive sprays may help in outbreak years</li> <li>• Usually cosmetic</li> <li>• Rake/remove leaves</li> <li>• Improve airflow, avoid overhead irrigation</li> </ul>
Redheaded Ash Borer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaf curling &amp; distortion</li> <li>• Brown/black blotches</li> <li>• Early leaf drop in wet springs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mostly cosmetic in CO</li> <li>• Remove fallen leaves</li> <li>• Fungicide rarely needed</li> </ul>
Ash Bark Beetle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orange/yellow swellings on leaves</li> <li>• Orange spores on leaf undersides</li> <li>• Premature leaf drop</li> </ul>	
Ash Anthracnose		
Ash Rust		

## Problem

### **Environmental Leaf Scorch / Decline**

## Common Symptoms

- Browning tips and margins
- Leaves crisp in midsummer
- Often drought or root damage related

## Treatment & Management

- Deep watering every 2–3 weeks in summer
- Maintain 2–4" mulch ring
- Avoid compacting soil or damaging roots

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# When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

## **When to Worry (action recommended)**

- Canopy thinning from the **top down**
- **D-shaped exit holes** or bark splitting
- Woodpecker damage (flecked bark)
- Entire branches suddenly die mid-summer
- Sprouting from the trunk is increasing

These signs suggest **borer activity**, especially EAB, and require immediate evaluation.

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## **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Leaf spots or curling in **wet springs** (anthracnose)
- Light rust spotting without branch dieback
- Minor scorch during hot, dry periods
- Small amount of early leaf drop in wet years

These typically resolve with improved watering and simple cleanup.