

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

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Emerald ash borer (EAB)	Insect/borer	Late Spring–Summer	🌸☀️
Lilac–ash borer	Insect/borer	Spring–Summer (adult flight)	🌸☀️
Banded ash borer	Insect/borer	Early Spring	🌸
Redheaded ash borer	Insect/borer	Spring–Fall	🌸☀️🍂

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

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.

● 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.