

Texas Ash Seed Conservation Project



What's The Issue?

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an invasive species from Asia that was introduced to the United States in the 1990s in wood packing material.

The larvae of the emerald ash borer feed in the phloem and outer sapwood of ash trees, producing galleries that eventually girdle and kill the tree. Since introduction, millions of ash trees have been killed by this invasive pest.

Humans unknowingly contribute to the spread of this species by moving infested materials such as firewood, nursery stock, lumber and other materials.

Learn more about invasive species and become involved in the fight to preserve Texas by visiting www.texasinvasives.org.

Save The Ash!

In response to extensive tree mortality from the emerald ash borer, ash seeds are being collected for long-term storage to preserve the species from extinction. Preserved seeds will also be used after the emerald ash borer is stopped, to reintroduce the ash species into their natural environments.

Although the emerald ash borer has not yet made it to Texas, the probability is high that it will establish. With introduction of this pest, many ash trees will die. However, we can save their locally adapted germplasm through our long term seed storage program.



The Goal

Texas has eight native ash species (Texas ash, Carolina ash, white ash, fragrant ash, green ash, Mexican ash, Gregg's ash and velvet ash). Our goal is to identify and map ash species across the state. We will then guide volunteers in making seed collections for 50 trees in each ecoregion, banking the seeds for use in restoration after the emerald ash borer has been controlled.

How Can You Help?

We need your help to save the ash trees of Texas. First, we need to locate and map native ash trees in your area. It's important to map only native ash trees from natural areas, not ones planted in landscaped areas such as backyards or city parks.

You can help by sending the GPS location, tree species name, one close up photograph of the leaf for identification and one photograph of the entire tree.

We will then contact you and provide Instructions for collecting seeds from the tree, for use in our seed bank.

To get involved or to learn more, please visit www.texasinvasives.org/ashtrees/. You may also email ashseed@wildflower.org with any questions and we will assist you.



The mission of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is to increase the sustainable use and conservation of native wildflowers, plants and landscapes.

Distribution of Native Ash Species in Texas by County

