

These guidelines are intended to help promote respectful and sustainable ash tree harvest for generations to come.

Ash has many uses

Basket weaving: The Ojibwe and other eastern tribes have long used black ash to make woven baskets.



Snowshoes: Because white ash is strong, impact resistant, and can be bent and worked fairly easily, it has long been used for snowshoes and toboggans.



Fishing and ricing: Ash is used for canoe push poles and fishing spear poles.

Wigwams: Ash bark is peeled in long sheets and used for the roof of a wiigiwaam. The sheets are placed so they overlap. Basswood twine is used to tie them together and ironwood poles are laid on top to keep them flat.

Athletics: *Baaga'adowe* or lacrosse (as early French fur traders called it) is an ancient game still played today. Lacrosse matches were used to settle disputes between tribes or bands, or simply "for the creator's amusement". Ash makes the best lacrosse sticks.



Medicine: Ash has many medicinal properties. The leaves, roots, and inner bark are used for various medicines. Ash is also used ceremonially.

Other uses: Ash is used for the head- and footpieces of cradleboards. It's also used for bows, pipes, tool handles, lodgepoles and other items.

Black ash baskets have many uses, including as backpacks! Baskets by April and Jarrod Stone-Dahl, Woodspirit Handcraft.



The emerald ash borer is deadly to ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) trees.



Not only are ash trees at risk, but the traditions that go with them. Will children only be able to learn these traditions from books? The steps we take to avoid spreading the EAB and other invasives will determine the fate of the forest and our children's future.

Tribal Harvest Guidelines: Ash



Be sure to check for signs of EAB

- ◆ Ash trees that should be healthy dying from the top down. The upper leaves become yellowish and sparse, then branches start to die.
- ◆ Trees with "epcormic" shoots from the larger branches and trunk, as the tree struggles to survive.
- ◆ Cracks in the bark.
- ◆ S-shaped or zigzag tunnels under the bark. Portions of the tunnels will be packed with sawdust-like "frass". Eventually the bark loosens and becomes easy to remove.
- ◆ White wormlike larvae in tunnels.
- ◆ D-shaped exit holes in the bark. The flat side of the "D" can be in any direction.
- ◆ The adult beetles are present from mid to late summer. Often this is the last sign you'll see!



To avoid moving the EAB and other wood-borne invasives:

Avoid moving unprocessed ash logs or firewood out of quarantined areas.

Peel several sections of bark from each harvested tree and check for signs of EAB before moving ash logs or firewood.

If you're harvesting black ash for baskets, consider pounding the logs into strips near where they are harvested. The strips are too thin for EAB larva to survive in them.

Avoid bringing firewood into national forests and other public lands that was harvested more than 25 miles away. Firewood collected within the same property where it's used should be safe at this time.

Ways to rid ash logs of EAB

Submerge the logs in a stream or river for 18 weeks in winter or 14 weeks in spring and summer. (This can be some work.)

Submerging logs in a water-filled canoe or other large container should work, IF the log stays completely submerged the entire time! The water may need to be changed every few weeks.

Did you know?

EAB larvae only tunnel a ring or two into the wood, so an infested log from a living tree may still be good for baskets and other uses.



Emerald ash borer populations only spread 1-2 miles per year on their own. The EAB is an excellent hitch-hiker though. Don't give one a ride!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Emerald Ash Borer: [Emeraldashborer.info](http://emeraldashborer.info)

Don't move firewood: dontmovefirewood.org

STATE EAB WEBSITES:

Minnesota: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/eab/index.html>

Wisconsin: <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/>

Michigan: http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-2390_18298---,00.html

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Before heading out to exercise your treaty rights, please remember to:

- Obtain any required permits and carry your tribal ID card.
- Familiarize yourself with the regulations
- Know who manages the property where you want to gather, and whether it is open to tribal gathering.
- If you're unsure of land ownership or specific rules and regulations, contact your tribe or GLIFWC.

Finally, report signs of EAB or other forest invasives to your tribal NRD, state DNR, or GLIFWC!

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