

# Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Ash Tree Identification

The Emerald Ash Borer attacks only **ASH** trees (*Fraxinus* species). Green and white ash, the most common species, as well as blue and black, Carolina and pumpkin are all susceptible.

- Other species, including trees with “ash” in their name (like mountain-ash), are **NOT** attacked by EAB.
  - Other species have similar leaves, like hickory or walnut, but are **NOT** related to ash or attacked by EAB
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1. All ash trees have opposite buds/leaves/branches, while most other species have alternate buds etc. Branches and buds are directly across for each other, not staggered.



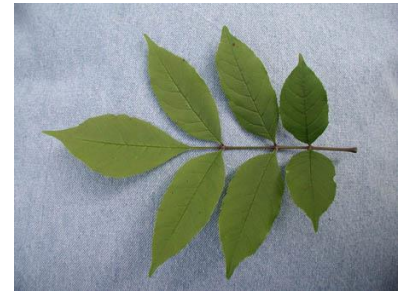
**Confusion?** A few other tree species (maples, dogwoods, horsechestnut) have opposite branching but most have completely different leaves.



2. Ash leaves are compound and have 5 to 11 leaflets per leaf. Some have smooth leaf edges and some are toothed.



**Confusion?** Boxelder is a maple and has opposite leaves, but it has 3-5 leaflets. Other tree species with compound leaves do **NOT** have opposite leaves or branches.



3. Ash trees when mature have gray bark with distinctive ridges while the young tree bark is relatively smooth.



**Confusion?** There are quite a few tree species with bark that looks similar to ash trees, but most of them do **NOT** have opposite or compound leaves. Black walnut has compound leaves and furrowed bark but it is **NOT** oppositely-leaved.



4. Ash seeds can be seen in the fall to winter. They appear as clusters of oar-shaped seeds that start as green in color and change to brown.



**Confusion?** There shouldn't be, as nothing really looks like an ash seed. Maple seeds are paired wings but even singly do not look like an oar.



## **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Ash Tree Identification**

If you use all the characteristics of ash: **opposite buds**, compound leaves, furrowed bark and *oar-shaped seeds*, you shouldn't find yourself confusing ash trees with other species.

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**Just in case:** Trees that have similarities to ash



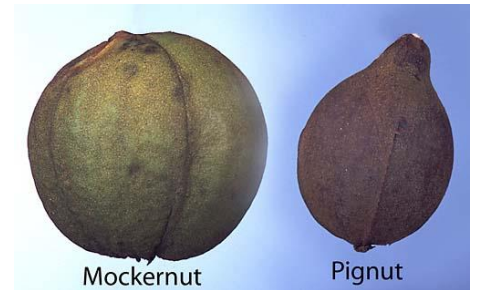
Boxelder (maple species) – opposite branches and compound leaves **BUT** only 3-5 leaflets, and the seeds are doubled, and look like wings, not single, and look like oars.



Mountain-ash – compound leaves with toothed edges **BUT** with alternate branches, and orange berries for seeds



Hickory – all hickories and pecan have compound leaves **BUT** with alternate branches, and the seeds are hard-shelled nuts inside a green husk.



Mockernut

Pignut



Black walnut – compound leaves with 15-23 leaflets (top)  
Butternut – compound leaves with 11-19 leaflets (bottom)  
**BUT** like hickories, alternate branches and a hard-shelled nut inside a green husk



For more information, see these websites:

Official EAB website: [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

Don't Move Firewood: <http://www.dontmovefirewood.org>

Other ash borers: [www.emeraldashborer.info/documents/E-2939.pdf](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/documents/E-2939.pdf) and  
<https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/ent-77>

US Forest Service: [www.nrs.fs.fed.us/disturbance/invasive\\_species/eab](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/disturbance/invasive_species/eab)

EAB Pest Alert: [www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest\\_al/eab/eab.pdf](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/eab.pdf)

