

## National Ash Seed Collection Initiative

### Help save native trees for the future!

The Emerald Ash Borer, a half-inch long invasive insect from Asia, has killed nearly 30 million



ash trees (*Fraxinus spp.*) in nine states – including Ohio – since it arrived in the U.S. in late 2001. It has spread unchecked, costing nurseries, municipalities, homeowners, and wood-related industries tens of millions of dollars. Despite ongoing containment efforts, there is a high probability that all of America's ash trees will be destroyed in our lifetime.

**Smaller than a penny, this bug costs millions!**

Ash trees occupy about 12 percent of Ohio's total forest land, with over 3 million more plantings in urban settings like streets and parks.

Rather than see native ash trees become extinct, the Natural Resources Conservation Service created the National Ash Seed Collection Initiative to collect and preserve ash tree seeds. Collected seeds will be x-rayed by the U.S. Forest Service to ensure viability, then stored in cryogenic vaults at the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, CO. If the population of American ash trees is indeed totally destroyed, these stored seeds will be the genetic base to re-establish *Fraxinus* in the future.

The Ash Seed Collection Initiative depends on volunteers to locate and collect ash seeds. You can help! Become a volunteer and you'll learn about the Emerald Ash Borer, the Seed Collection Initiative, and how to identify ash trees. You'll see how to collect seeds, packaging and cataloging your collections, and where to drop off your collections for processing.

Visit <http://www.ashseed.org>

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*A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit.*

-- Elton Trueblood, philosopher (1900-1994)

