

Common Ash Tree Species



Black Ash

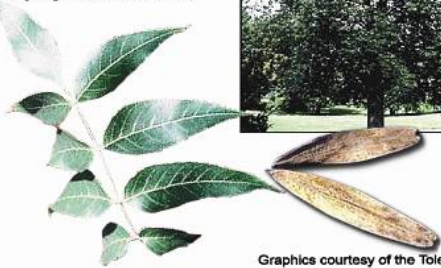
Habitat: Poorly drained sites such as swamps, streams and riverbanks.
Features: 40 to 50 feet in height, small than either white or green ash. The terminal buds are more black when compared to the brown of either green or white ash.



Graphics courtesy of the Toledo Blade

Blue Ash

Habitat: Dry upland limestone sites.
Features: Twigs that appear to be square. The wings that grow on the twigs give the tree its square twig identifying characteristic.



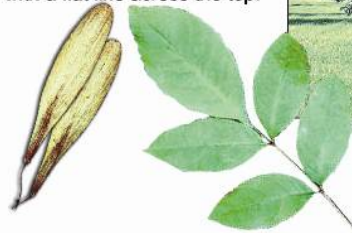
Graphics courtesy of the Toledo Blade

For more information about the **National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative**, including how to identify and collect ash seed, go to:
www.ashseed.org

Common Ash Tree Species

Green Ash

Habitat: Poorly drained soils, along streams, in bottom lands, and throughout wet woods.
Features: Compared to the leaf scar of the white ash, the scar appears more like a semicircle with a flat line across the top.



Graphics courtesy of the Toledo Blade

White Ash

Habitat: Upland sites with little tolerance for wet areas.
Features: The leaf scar (area where leaf was attached to the branch) on white ash has more of a grin to it than do other ashes.



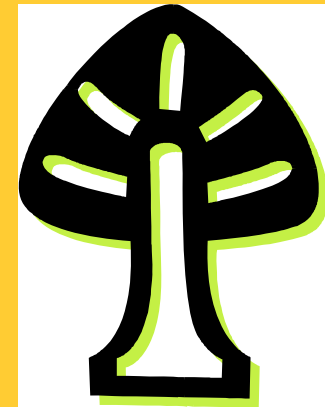
Graphics courtesy of the Toledo Blade



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National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative

Help Save America's Ash Trees for Future Generations



America is losing its ash trees at an alarming rate. An invasive species, the emerald ash borer, has already destroyed millions of ash trees.

The loss of all of America's ash trees is a real possibility. An effort is underway to gather seed from populations of native ash tree species nationwide.

You can assist this effort by collecting ash tree seeds and sending them to us for genetic preservation.

www.ashseed.org



History of the Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer is an insect species native to Asia. It is believed to have entered the United States sometime in the mid-1990's near Detroit, Mich.

The emerald ash borer has spread throughout much of Michigan as well as to surrounding states and Canada. Local, state and federal officials have attempted to slow its spread. Ash trees in infested areas have been destroyed and there is a ban on moving ash logs or firewood. Despite these efforts the ash borer continues to spread.

The Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer is a beetle that infests ash trees. The insect lays its eggs in crevices in the trees' bark. The larvae then bore into the tree and feed beneath the bark. An infested tree typically will die in two to three years.



*Photo Courtesy
USDA Agricultural
Research Service*

The Plant Materials Program

The Rose Lake Plant Materials Center in East Lansing, Mich is leading the National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative. Rose Lake is part of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Program.

The primary mission of the Plant Materials Program is to develop and distribute plants for conservation purposes. The centers also provide plant-related technical assistance in conservation projects.

The National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative

With the potential for all of the country's ash trees being lost, staff at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center developed a plan for the worst case scenario.

The Rose Lake PMC decided to preserve seed from diverse populations of ash trees while it is still possible. The PMC entered into an agreement with the USDA Agricultural Research Service to store the seed at its Genetic Preservation Facility in Fort Collins, Colo.

Staff at Rose Lake sort and classify the submitted seeds before sending them to a USDA Forest Service facility for x-ray analysis. X-ray analysis helps determine which seeds are viable for preservation.

The staff at Rose Lake is enlisting volunteers to collect ash tree seed from as many native trees, and from as wide an area as possible. This will be a long-term project as the ash borer continues to spread, threatening additional populations and species of ash trees.

Several factors make the collection of ash tree seeds a challenging task. In some species only female trees produce seeds and then not every year. Healthy trees capable of producing seed are also being destroyed to slow the spread of the ash borer.

Your help is needed to ensure that the ash trees' genetic heritage is preserved.



*Plant Materials Specialist
Dave Burgdorf with ash
seed at the Rose Lake
Plant Materials Center.*

Ash Seed Collection Form

- Please fully complete this form and enclose it with your seed shipment.
- Keep seed from different locations separate and include a collection form for each.
- Send seed within 24 hours of collecting it.

Collection Site Information

Please indicate Ash species:
Black ___ Green ___ White ___ Blue ___
Other (specify) _____

Single tree collection? YES or NO
Trees producing seed were likely (circle one)
Native Tree(s) *Planted Nursery Stock*

Collection Information

Date Collected _____
Collector's Name _____
Collector's Affiliation _____
Address _____
City, State ZIP _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Is this tribal seed? YES or NO
If YES, what tribe? _____
IF YES, would tribe be willing to share some seed for inclusion in the non-tribal collection?
Y or N

Collection Site Information

State _____ County _____
Township _____ Range _____
Major Land Resource Area _____

Seed Collection: Collect at least 500 seeds from each population. Put seeds in a cloth or paper bag and store under cool, dry conditions until shipment. **Do not** store in a plastic bag.

Send Collected Seed to:
Rose Lake Plant Materials Center
USDA-NRCS
7472 Stoll Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
*Phone: 517/641-6300 Fax: 517/641-4421
E-mail: john.leif@mi.usda.gov*