

# Ask An Arborist™ Quick Reference: Native Ash Borers

## Another type of ash borer: Native Ash Borers

Borers -- insects that tunnel through trees -- wreak havoc throughout North America. In Chicagoland, the “banded” and the “lilac/ash” borers (*Podosesia aureocincta* and *P. syringae*, respectively) (fig. 1) are the most prevalent species that attack ash and lilac trees (not to be confused with the dreaded emerald ash borer).

Like many other borers, ash borer larvae feed on a tree’s xylem tissue, cutting off nutrition and water flow. Structural damage inflicted by the larvae will cause the tree to decline rapidly and possibly die. The first evidence of the presence of ash borer larvae is sap mixed with frass oozing from irregularly shaped entrance holes in the trunk. Circular adult exit holes -- often with pupal skins protruding (fig. 2) -- are generally found above the entrance holes. These exit holes are an indication that the tree has already been damaged by borer activity and that preventative measures should be taken to avoid increased borer activity during the following season.

**Autumn Tree**  **Care Experts, Inc.**

*a comprehensive arboricultural firm building relationships in every season*

North Shore: 847.729.1963 • Northwest: 847.726.1991 • West: 630.725.1963 • Chicago: 773.725.1863

