

## WHITE ASH (*Fraxinus americana*)

The white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) is one of the most common of the early successional trees in New Hampshire forests. Its corky bark and compound, opposite leaves (shown here) clearly distinguish it from the other species in our forest. Its strong straight-grained wood is widely used for furniture, flooring and, equally importantly, for baseball bats.



This ash is unusual. Notice the ring of rotten wood near its base. That is the stump of a maple tree that was trying to grow too close to the ash. Rather than pushing the maple over, the ash just grew around it, eventually killing the maple.

Today, our ash trees are threatened by an invasive insect, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*), that was accidentally imported into Michigan from East Asia in the 1990s. This small emerald green insect, shown below, lives most of its life as a larva under the bark of the ash feeding on the phloem. As the larva feeds, it creates S-shaped galleries that cut the flow of sap between the leaves and roots, eventually killing the tree. The insect was detected in Concord, NH in 2012 and is spreading further out from Concord each year. The spread is limited in nature to about ½ mile per year but is much faster when people transport infected firewood into EAB-free areas. There is little doubt that the insect will eventually reach Grantham and will then kill almost all our ash trees. **YOU CAN HELP BY NOT TRANSPORTING FIREWOOD INTO GRANTHAM.** For more information about EAB, go to [NHbugs.org](http://NHbugs.org).

