

*This project is designed to create an early detection network for the Catskill region to determine the extent of the emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation each year. By knowing where the infestation range is, communities and forest landowners can better prepare for ash mortality.*

### STEP 1. Know What You Are Getting Into

- You will be responsible for cutting down a tree and stripping the bark
- Make sure you are comfortable with the safety risks involved with the tools you are using for this project

### STEP 2. Select The Tree

- Find an ash tree that is at the edge of a forest patch, by a road or open grown
- Choose a tree that isn't too large for you to fell or strip; under ~ 10 in. dbh (a larger tree will be more work later on)

### STEP 3. Girdle The Tree

- The best time to girdle the tree is when the leaves have just come out in the spring
- Using a drawknife, pruning saw or bow saw, cut through the phloem all the way around the tree in two rings at least four inches apart (very vigorous trees may be able to heal over if the cut is too small)
- Don't cut too far into the xylem (if water is cut off the tree will die too quickly and not be as attractive to EAB)
- Pry the bark away from between your two cuts



Photo Credit: Mark Whitmore, Cornell University

### STEP 4. Fell The Tree

- The tree can be felled anytime **after late October**
- Use every precaution to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you

### STEP 5. Examine The Tree For Signs Of EAB

- Look at the canopy for signs of splitting, especially near areas of branching
- Check for any woodpecker activity

### STEP 6. Peel The Tree

- Using a drawknife work your way through the bark and the sapwood gradually, peeling an area and checking for serpentine galleries before going deeper
- Work your way from the top down to where the branches are a 2 inch diameter

Image Credit: Texas A & M Extension

### STEP 7. Report Your Findings

- Report **presence or absence** of EAB to:  
mtaylor@catskillcenter.org  
or call 845-586-2611

