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Grow a new variety of this vine

TO TILL OR NOT Page 51
Consider the pros and cons of tilling

OHIO GARDENER

OHIO'S OWN GUIDE TO GREAT GARDENING & LANDSCAPING



Dahlias

For Smiles, Not For Show
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\$4.95
March/April 2014
ohgardener.com



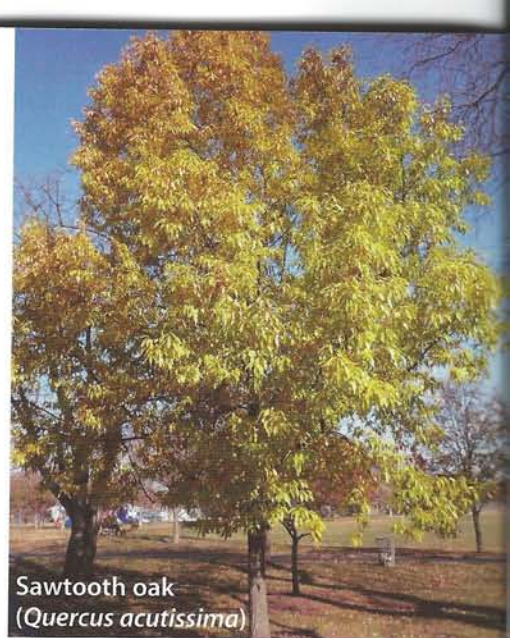
 **A LIVING SALAD BOWL**
Plant a rainbow lettuce container
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 **HOT PLANT: DIGIPLEXIS**
'Illumination Flame' shines brightly
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Katsuratree
(*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)



Sawtooth oak
(*Quercus acutissima*)



Chinkapin oak
(*Quercus muehlenbergii*)

Replacements for Ash Trees

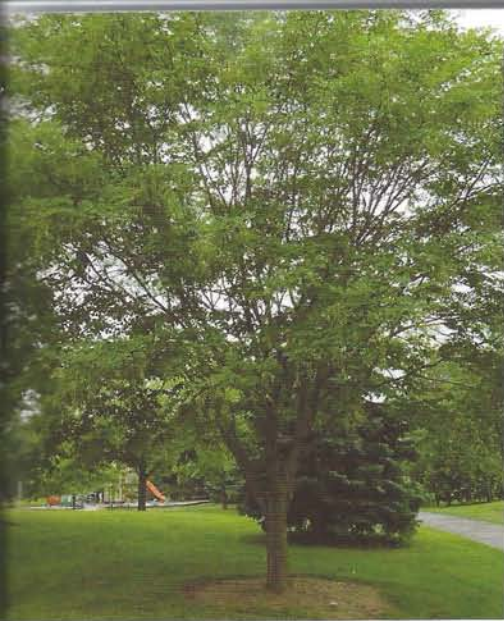
Felled by Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer is wiping out ash trees across the Midwest. There are many trees that you can use to replace your dead ash trees, but these are some of the best for Zones 5 and 6.

By Scott A. Zanon

For those of you who have witnessed the devastation of the emerald ash borer or for others who soon will, I would like to suggest several tree species that can be used to replace existing ash, since planting any ash species currently poses a risk and is not recommended. Emerald ash borer has become well established and has forced homeowners and communities to bear the cost of treatment or removal and replacement.

When choosing new trees for your landscape, consider the sun exposure, soil texture, moisture, pH and issues such as road salt. Be sure to allow room above and belowground to accommodate the size of the mature tree. Be aware that tree root systems can extend out beyond the limbs two to three times the height of the tree. If you choose trees that are adapted to the existing site's conditions, then you will have the best chance of long term success. Those trees that are not adapted to existing conditions will not grow well and may be more susceptible to insect and disease problems.



TOP LEFT: American yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*)
TOP RIGHT: Black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
BOTTOM LEFT: Japanese zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*)
BOTTOM RIGHT: Cucumbertree magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*)

Emerald Ash Borer: A Pest Across the Midwest

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a selective pest that attacks only ash trees, members of the genus *Fraxinus*. It was brought into the U.S. (in the Detroit area) from China via wooden packing crates (pallets) in 2002. The beetle is not a threat to healthy Asian ash trees, but is wreaking havoc to millions of ash trees in the Midwest. All native ash species are at risk of infestation including their cultivars.

The native ash species make up 6 percent of our nation's forests. Ash trees common in the landscape – green (*F. pennsylvanica*) and white (*F. americana*) – have been planted as home landscape, street and park trees in great numbers. They transplant easily, are fast growing and are very tolerant of urban growing conditions and sites. Sadly, some of these trees were replanted to replace the American elm trees lost to Dutch elm disease. They provide shade and a statuesque appearance to any landscape.

Adult EABs are bright emerald green with dark undersides and are very small averaging ½ inch long. It is the larval feeding that causes almost all of the injuries. The serpentine pattern of feeding can effectively girdle a branch in a single season. Most afflicted trees die because of the girdling. Symptoms of an infestation begin with chlorotic, unhealthy foliage followed by canopy decline and branch dieback. This usually occurs in the upper third of the crown. Trees often die within three to five years of the initial egg laying. Unfortunately, humans are a significant vector of EAB by transporting infested firewood to uninfested areas.

For the latest information on the status of EAB including how to identify the insect and its damage, visit www.emeraldashborer.info.

The Replacements

There are many trees that you can use to replace your dead or dying ash trees, but some of the best for both Zones 5 and 6 include:

- Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
- Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- Yellow buckeye (*Aesculus flava*)
- River birch (*Betula nigra*)
- Katsuratree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)
- American yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*)
- Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)
- Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- Cucumbertree magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*)
- Dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)
- Black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
- American hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)

- Sawtooth oak (*Quercus acutissima*)
- Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
- Chinkapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)
- Pin oak (*Quercus palustris*)
- Red oak (*Quercus rubra*)
- Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*)
- Common baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
- Silver linden (*Tilia tomentosa*)
- American elm (*Ulmus americana*) (Dutch elm disease-resistant cultivars only)
- Japanese zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*) ✎

Scott Zanon is the author of *Desirable Trees for the Midwest – 50 for the Home Landscape and Larger Properties*. Scott's new book *Landscaping with Trees in the Midwest: A Guide for Residential and Commercial Properties* will be released in May by Ohio University Press.