

**AG NOTES**  
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**THEY'RE HERE!**

I've attached a picture of the first cicada at our house. I saw it Sunday morning. And I found the first shed skin on a tree in the back yard.

I haven't heard the loud noise they make yet (although I do have a ringing in my ears but that's probably my imagination!). I'm sure that the loud noises will pick up shortly as they gain numbers and start the mating process and deposit eggs in the bark of twigs.

I shared earlier that any young fruit and ornamental trees should be protected with a small mesh cloth. This will prevent the female from depositing eggs in slits made in the bark of small limbs, and this process can weaken the branches and allow for entry of diseases and or insects. Such damage can be really harmful to younger trees. The older mature trees in the landscape will not suffer to the extent the younger trees will.

The good news is that they will be here and then gone for another sixteen years.



### **CICADA KILLER WASPS**

The next insect I'm sure that we will be hearing about is the cicada killer wasp. It's a big one, and I've attached a picture of one with a captured cicada. No, it's not the murder hornet, but it is big and intimidating. However, it's really harmless unless you mess with it, and then it can sting.

Its primary purpose is to find a cicada and take it to feed its wasp young, generally a single larva in a single ground nest. These things fly just above the ground looking for cicada tunnels, and then they tend to their own nests in the ground.

We don't see many of them, but they are here from time to time.



### **ASH TREE BORERS**

I got asked the other day why some trees in the landscape are shedding bark and others are not. This is a species problem caused by the emerald ash tree borer, and there's little to nothing that can be done. I've attached pictures of the borer and damage.

This borer insect has been migrating across the U.S. and it's been making its way from East Tennessee for some time. The borer actually bores into the tree and lays eggs in the tunnels under the bark, and then the hatchlings feed in all directions under the bark.

This pattern is actually what causes the damage. The soft inner bark is what translocates the sap and feeds the tree from the lower levels to the higher levels, and these tunnels interrupt the flow of sap and this then kills the trees.

The outer bark is allowed to shed from the dead/dying tree. By this time the borer has been in the tree for a couple of years, and the damage is done. Sadly, there is not much in an effective way to save the trees. There have been an estimated ten million or more trees lost in the infested areas of the eastern U.S. Spraying is not a reasonable option. There are some ads for a systemic treatment to the root system, but there are challenges in timing and the treatment itself.

For more information look at the website

[http://www.emeraldashborer.info/documents/multistate\\_EAB\\_Insecticide\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/documents/multistate_EAB_Insecticide_Fact_Sheet.pdf)





