

SWAMP SURVIVOR

The Tree that Breathes Underwater.



The Black Ash survives where others cannot. It survives with trunks submerged in icy melt water, and is the only leafy tree that grows in the swamp forest's wettest soils. Special pores in its roots extract oxygen from the wet soil, allowing the tree to "breathe" underwater.

The Black Ash is the last tree to get its new leaves each spring, and the first to shed them in fall. Because it is leafless for most of the year, the Black Ash allows plenty of sunlight to reach the forest floor and warm up the cold swamp soils. The sunny microclimate beneath the Black Ash forest hosts a variety of low-growing plants and moisture loving frogs and salamanders.

Most swamp trees are "conifers"- trees with needles. Can you see where the conifer and Black Ash swamps meet? Black Ash indicates where the swamp soils are most saturated.

Will Ash Trees Survive?

The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive species highly destructive to most ash trees. The Emerald Ash Borer larvae pose a serious threat to the Black Ash by inhibiting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients necessary for survival.

