

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been confirmed on private property in the City of St Francis.

EAB, native to Asia, was found attacking and killing ash trees in Michigan in 2002. It has spread quickly (largely through human movement of infested firewood) to several other states including Wisconsin in 2008. Currently, EAB has been identified in 32 counties in Wisconsin, many in the southeast, including Milwaukee. All 32 counties have been quarantined.

As a result of EAB, millions of ash trees are dead or dying. EAB damages a tree's ability to transport food and water, leading to die back and decline.

ONLY ash (*Fraxinus*) trees are attacked by the emerald ash borer, including white, green, black and blue. Note that Mountain Ash is not a true ash and is not attacked. Ash trees can be identified by their opposite branching pattern and compound leaves with 5 to 11 toothed leaflets. Symptoms of EAB in ash trees include: crown die-back and decline; S-shaped tunnels under the bark; D-shaped exit holes; larvae under the bark and woodpecker damage due to woodpeckers eating the larvae.

Homeowners can identify ash trees and symptoms of EAB by visiting: <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/EAB-HomeownersGuide.pdf>

Live and even EAB infested ash trees with a thinning canopy of up to 50% can still be protected. You as a property owner can chemically treat your own ash trees on your own property. Homeowners can consider ash tree value and insecticide treatment against EAB by visiting: http://hort.uwex.edu/sites/default/files/ls_My_Ash_Tree_Worth_Treating_for_Emerald_Ash_Borer.pdf
At the end of this publication is a link to a video demonstration that shows ash treatment using a systemic soil drench.

Further information on EAB can be accessed at the WI EAB website: www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov A list of insecticide treatments for EAB is shown by selecting the Homeowner tab on the site to the *Home Owner Guide EAB Insecticide Treatment.pdf*

If you live in Milwaukee County, you can call the UW-Extension horticulturists and Master Gardeners to discuss your plant health questions. The staff has also been trained to answer EAB questions. Contact the Horticulture Help Line: 414-256-4664: Monday – Wednesday, 9:00am – Noon. Phones will be answered by available staff during these times; otherwise you can leave a message.

Homeowners concerned with conditions of an ash tree on their property, may also decide to contact a tree service company they are familiar with or an ISA certified arborist to evaluate the tree. A listing of certified arborists may be found on the Wisconsin Arborist Association website: <http://www.waa-isa.org/>

Although most of the Southeastern Wisconsin Counties are under quarantine, all St. Francis residents are asked NOT to transport firewood from St Francis to other locations.

Currently, there is no solution to stopping the spread of EAB and no way to eradicate EAB. The City of St Francis continues to monitor its street and park ash trees for EAB and evaluate for future treatment or removal. To date no ash trees have been treated for EAB. The City stopped planting ash trees in 2007.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Frequently Asked Questions

What Does an Ash Tree Look Like?

There are many types of trees. Many look similar but EAB is only present in ash trees (Mountain Ash is not a true ash and therefore not susceptible to EAB). Ash trees have an opposite branching pattern and compound leaves. (Images 1, 2 and 3)



Image 1
Red Dots Identify
Branches



Image 2
One Leaf
5 to 11 Leaflets



Image 3
Bark has Opposing
Diamond-like Pattern
in Raised Bark

How Do I Know If My Trees Have EAB?

It is important to look for a combination of at least two symptoms or signs when trying to figure out if emerald ash borer is in your ash trees.

Signs of EAB:

D-Shaped Emergence Holes: When adults emerge from under the bark they create D-Shaped holes that are about 1/8th inch in diameter. (Image 1)

S-Shaped Larval Galleries: Larvae feed under the bark and wind back and forth, creating galleries that are packed with frass (larva feces) and follow a serpentine pattern. (Image 2)



Image 1



Image2

Larvae: Cream-Colored slightly flattened and has pincher-like appendages at the end of their abdomen. When they are done growing they are 1 ½ inches long. Larvae can be found beneath the bark. (Image3)



Image 3

Adults: Metallic green and about the size of one grain of cooked rice (3/8 – ½ inch long and 1/16 inch wide). Adults are flat on the back and rounded on their underside. (Images 4 and 5)



Image 4



Image 5

Symptoms of EAB:

There are 4 specific signs of EAB.

Crown Dieback: Trees start to show dead branches throughout the canopy, beginning at the top. Larval feeding disrupts nutrient and water flow to the upper canopy, resulting in leaf loss. Leaves at the top of the tree may look thin and discolored. (also common with many other tree ailments) (Image A)

Epicormic Sprouting: Trees may have new growth at the base of the tree and on the trunk, often just below where the larvae are feeding. (Image B)

Bark Splits: Vertical splits in the bark are caused due to callus tissue that develops around the larval galleries.

Woodpecker Feeding: Woodpeckers eat EAB larvae that are under the bark. This usually happens higher in the tree. Look for small strips of bark missing from higher branches. (Image C)



Image A



Image B



Image C

What Happens If EAB is Found In Your Community?

According to the Wisconsin DNR website, Emerald Ash Borer is a major threat to Wisconsin Trees. EAB has been found and confirmed in our city. Because it is easily moved long distances by human activity, EAB can appear anywhere at anytime. This pest is regulated by state and federal agencies, so its spread is monitored and its appearance in a new location triggers many different actions:

1. When EAB is first confirmed in a municipality, your chief elected official and/or appropriate staff will promptly be notified by Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP) or Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

- A Resident has notified the St. Francis Engineering Dept. and after inspection by the Engineering Dept. we immediately followed up with the DNR. They came to inspect the tree, and confirmed it was EAB.

2. After local notification, DATCP will issue a media advisory. News media may be contacted, and may interview you. State staff will not call a press conference, but if we as a municipality do, they may attend.

- No press conference or interviews are scheduled at this time. The DNR will do an official notice.

3. Following notification, you will receive written confirmation of the EAB infestation. The follow up letter will contain more complete information.

***- There is a letter to the community posted on the City website:
<https://wi-stfrancis.civicplus.com/>***

4. State agency experts may try to determine the extent of the EAB infestation. This can take several months.

- Not scheduled at this time.

5. DATCP will quarantine your county and possibly adjacent counties to restrict movement of regulated ash material and all hardwood firewood, limiting further spread of EAB. DATCP will notify and work with affected businesses in the quarantine area to make their products safe for transport within the state, if possible.

- Milwaukee County has already been quarantined prior to EAB confirmation because of neighboring cities already have been confirmed to have EAB.

6. State agencies may provide additional education & assistance for municipal officials and staff, residents, & businesses. DNR will direct you to the right resources to get your questions answered. The Engineering Department will have information posted on the website after the official notice by the DNR. We will also provide links to follow the DNR websites.

- You can always visit the DNR website or the EAB website, www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov, for more information.

7. Generally, neither the federal nor state government will not cut your ash trees or require you to cut ash trees. EAB is now considered to be permanently established in the upper Midwest and with current control tools, eradication is not possible.

- The Engineering Department is already working on a treatment plan and will be applying for a grant to fund the treatment plan. The City website will be updated as to our progress.

Options For Managing EAB For Homeowners

A key aspect of reducing the spread of emerald ash borer is properly managing the wood, brush and stump grindings generated by removal of infested trees. This requires an understanding of the processes that will destroy the insect, but also the federal, state and local regulations that apply to those processes. The preferred method of managing the wood is to have it processed in a manner that utilizes the wood and eliminates the risk of spreading EAB to new areas. If you suspect you have EAB, please visit www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov. There is guidance on EAB identification.

- 1) Treat with Insecticide: Only if tree is healthy or less than 50% of the trees crown has died, is discolored or has thin foliage. Requires long commitment, because it is not known how long EAB will remain in the area. Several treatments may be needed and do tend to be costly.
- 2) Remove & Replace: This is an option for ash in all stages of health. Contact a certified arborist to remove trees in your yard and to appropriately process wood to prevent the spread of EAB. Replace trees with non-ash species. Trees larger than 10 inches in diameter tend to produce more EAB and should be considered a priority for removal.
- 3) Do Nothing: Observations in states where EAB has been present for several years show that all ash trees are at risk of infestation and mortality. If you consider this an option, expect your tree to become infested and die and have to handle the hazards associated with dead trees (falling branches, no leaf growth, etc.).
- 4) Chipping: Must be chipped or ground down to a maximum size of no more than 1'' in two dimensions. A typical chipper used in tree care will not reliably create chips that meet this specification. No DNR waste program approvals or licenses are necessary for grinding or use of this material.
- 5) Debarking for lumber: (this option is designed for professionals, but some homeowners may have the equipment to perform this task) Complete removal of all bark, plus ½ inch of wood. The debarked wood can be milled into lumber. Any bark that is remaining on the lumber must be removed before the lumber can be moved out of quarantined areas. The removed bark and wood must be chipped down to a maximum size of 1inch by 1inch in 2 dimensions.
- 6) Aging: 2 years after the death of the tree it will be free of EAB. This allows the wood to dry to the point where EAB can no longer survive in it. If this option is used, remember that EAB will continue to emerge during the 2 year period and this wood poses risk of infestation to living ash in the area of where it is being aged. This wood must not be moved out of a quarantined area during the aging period.
- 7) Burning: This should be used as a last resort, wood brush or chips may be burned prior to insect emergence. Open burning is prohibited in the City of St. Francis. Burning can only occur in approved indoor fireplaces, approved wood burning stoves or approved outdoor fireplaces (City Ordinance 245-9 regulates outdoor fireplaces)

EAB for firewood:

If you have an EAB-infested tree that you would like to use as firewood, **BE AWARE** that EAB can continue to emerge from the wood for two years after cutting. To avoid spreading EAB, split and leave the wood to age near where you cut the tree down for two summers. After it has dried for two years,

EAB that may have resided in the wood will have already either emerged or died. Aged firewood poses little risk of introducing EAB and it can be moved freely **WITHIN** the limits of the quarantine.

EAB restrictions and Firewood Restrictions:

State and Federal laws forbid moving hardwood firewood out of EAB quarantined areas- The following areas in Wisconsin may NOT have firewood moved out of them:

Brown, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Door, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago counties. A federal quarantine also prohibits the movement of hardwood firewood out of all or parts of more than a dozen other states and parts of Canada.

Links Providing More Information:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/UrbanForests/documents/EABToolBox/EAB-FieldGuide.pdf>

<https://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/EAB-HomeownersGuide.pdf>

https://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/articleassets/Ash_Wood_Processing_for_Homeowner.pdf

<https://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article.jsp?topicid=23>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/urbanforests/documents/eabwhatwillhappen.pdf>

http://hort.uwex.edu/sites/default/files/Is_My_Ash_Tree_Worth_Treating_for_Emerald_Ash_Borer.pdf

<http://www.waa-isa.org>