

## **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**

The emerald ash borer is an invasive insect native to Asia that was introduced into the United States via wooden packing material. It was discovered in Detroit, MI in 2002. The insect has spread throughout the Midwest since its arrival and was first discovered in Wisconsin in 2008. In Asia, the insect has little impact due to the existence of natural insect predators, however; in the United States there are no natural predators to keep the insect in check and therefore has had a devastating effect on our native ash tree population. An ash tree, once infested with EAB, will eventually die.

### **Why Does the Village Plan on Cutting Public Ash Along Streets in Advance of EAB?**













In August 2007, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources urban foresters toured cities in Michigan and Ohio hit hard by EAB. Standard advice they heard from their counterparts in those states was to avoid getting caught in “catch-up mode.” EAB often is not found until it has been present for a couple of years or more. Larvae multiply unnoticed in the upper reaches of ashes. Communities began noticing problems only after EAB had spread downward and ashes started dying in batches. Their maintenance crews could not keep pace. Standing dead ash became liability concerns and eyesores for residents. Westland, Michigan crews reached a point where they had to resort to cutting trunks at 12 feet above ground and leaving them. That city had to put off pruning and other routine tree work for five years. In every village and city they visited, DNR foresters heard about problems that could be avoided or minimized through “preemptive removal”.

*Some advantages of removing ash before EAB arrives:*

- Standing, EAB-infested trees will pose liability problems for the Village. Dead ash wood is extra brittle and large branches on dying trees become susceptible to snapping in storms.
- Removing an ash that is dying or dead costs significantly more than removing a live one for two reasons: (a) dead ash wood is unpredictable and arborists must take added precautions and time and (b) unlike a live ash, a dead one shatters when it hits the ground, shooting debris, requiring extensive clean-up work.
- Brittle, dead ash branches and trunks are much harder on chain saws and wood chippers than are live ones. Increased equipment maintenance and delays are more likely.
- EAB-infested trees, once upper branches begin to die and crowns lose foliage, blemish street and park landscape views.
- Gradual, preemptive removal avoids organizational problems that could interrupt Village services and additionally strain local funds.
- Waiting to remove ash prolongs the time it takes a replacement tree to reach the size where it begins providing measurable shade, reduce energy bills, increase property values, abate storm water runoff, improve air quality, and add other economic and environmental benefits.

## RELATED LINKS

**Emerald Ash Borer** <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/index.jsp>)

-  [EAB Readiness Plan](#)
-  [Homeowners Guide](#)
-  [Emerald-ash-borer- The dangers & costs of infested trees](#)
-  [EAB FAQ](#)
-  [EAB Identification](#)
-  [EAB Look Alike](#)
-  [EAB Information for Landowners](#)
-  [EAB Firewood FAQ](#)
-  [Firewood Quarantine in WI](#)
-  [What is your Firewood Hiding](#)
-  [How to Distinguish Ash from other Common Trees](#)
-  [Identify Infected Trees](#)