

Emerald Ash Borer Update 12-15-11

Because Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is confirmed in Oak Lawn, the Village is providing residents with the following information to help identify the signs and symptoms of the insect which can destroy ash trees. Basically all ash trees in Oak Lawn are in a varying state of infestation and showing various states of decline.

In addition, the following information will help residents determine what they must do if they have dead or declining tree(s) with the destructive insect.

About the Emerald Ash Borer:



The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle that was first discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles feed on ash foliage, but cause little damage. The larvae feed on the inner bark of the ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. EAB probably arrived in the US on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia.

The EAB is a small (1/2" long, 1/8" wide) metallic green beetle native to Asia. The beetle will fit on a penny with room to spare! Officials believe the borer arrived in Illinois in ash tree firewood from a neighboring state. [Don't Move Firewood!](#)

The adult beetle, upon leaving the tree, makes a small D-shaped exit hole that is only 1/8." EAB will only attack ash trees. Proper identification of ash tree is useful. Another sign of EAB is a woodpecker on the tree. The woodpecker is trying to feed on the beetle.

The crown of the ash tree will die back and more branches will continually die for the next few years. As the death of the tree continues, suckers at the base of the trunk may sprout. More information is available at www.emeraldashborer.info.

What to Do? If you suspect that a tree on your private property is dead or infested with the destructive EAB insect, contact a tree contractor for an evaluation and recommendation of action. Residents are responsible to remove trees on their property that are declining from the EAB or dead. The tree must be cut at ground level, with all firewood and woody debris disposed of in accordance with the [Illinois Department of Agriculture \(IDA\)](#) regulations. The tree contractors must have a current business license. Contact Deanne Adasiak 708-499-7837 for a current list of business licensed contractors.

If the tree is located on the parkway, contact the Oak Lawn Public Works Forestry Division, (708) 499-7098. Experts will examine the tree and determine its state of decline and prioritize action as appropriate. Trees scheduled for removal will be removed at the Village expense.

It is important for the community to adhere to these regulations so that we can preserve our valued tree population. For further information, please contact the Public Works, Forestry Division at (708) 499-7098 or hgreen@oaklawn-il.gov.