



City Of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMERALD ASH BORER CONFIRMED IN BURNSVILLE

City Encourages Residents to Look for Signs of EAB in Ash Trees

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has confirmed an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation in Burnsville. The discovery was made by a City forestry crew member working in the area of McAndrews Road and 139th Street, in the central part of Burnsville.

With EAB infestations in many neighboring cities, City officials were aware that it was only a matter of time until the bug was discovered in Burnsville. In 2013, the City approved a plan to begin protecting select public ash trees and removing others to prepare for EAB's arrival.

What Can I Do to Protect Ash Trees on My Property?

Property owners are responsible for trees on their property. As EAB kills ash trees, residents should take action now if they have ash trees on their property.

Pesticide Treatment

If an infestation is caught early in an otherwise healthy ash tree, a pesticide treatment may save that tree. The City recommends a trunk injection treatment over other pesticide application methods. Residents interested in this method should hire a City-licensed tree contractor with a commercial pesticide applicator's license. Trees need to be treated at least every two years.

Removal

Untreated or unhealthy ash trees should be removed as soon as possible. If removal is delayed, costs are likely to increase as it's more dangerous to remove an ash tree heavily infested by EAB. If hiring out for tree removal, residents must hire a City-licensed tree contractor.

Find the list of City-licensed tree contractors at www.burnsville.org/forestry.

How Do I Know if My Tree is Infested?

Because ash trees are not yet fully leafed-out, now is a good time to look for infestations. There are several things to look for:

- **Be sure you've identified an ash tree.** This is an important first step since EAB only feeds on ash trees. Ash have opposite branching – meaning branches come off the trunk directly across from each other. On older trees, bark has a tight, diamond-shaped pattern. Younger trees have relatively smooth bark.

(more)

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- **Look for woodpecker damage.** Woodpeckers will eat EAB larvae, and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of EAB.
- **Check for bark cracks.** EAB larvae tunneling under the bark can cause the bark to split open, revealing the larval (S-shaped) tunnels underneath.
- **Contact a professional.** If you feel your ash tree may be infested with EAB, contact a tree care professional or your City forester at 952-895-4508.

What's the Risk?

Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. Minnesota is highly susceptible to the destruction caused by this invasive insect, as the state has approximately one billion ash trees – the most of any state in the nation.

The biggest risk of spreading EAB comes from people unknowingly moving firewood or other ash products harboring larvae. To help stop the spread, don't transport firewood. Buy firewood locally from approved vendors, and burn it where you buy it.

The City will be conducting tree inspections on public and private property to look for signs of EAB. Property owners will be notified by the City if an infested or otherwise diseased tree is identified, and be provided with options for what to do with the tree.

For more information on Emerald Ash Borer visit www.mda.state.mn.us/EAB or www.burnsville.org/EAB. Contact the City of Burnsville Forestry Department at 952-895-4508.

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