

VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD EMERALD ASH BORER FACTS

1. *Where did the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) come from? Where is it in the United States?* The EAB is found in eastern Russia, northern China, Japan and Korea. It arrived in the early 1990's and was first identified in southeast Michigan in 2002. It most likely traveled to the U.S. in ash wood used for stabilizing cargo in ships or for packing consumer products. The EAB has spread from Michigan to Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee and West Virginia and Ontario, Canada. EAB has been discovered in 18 counties in north central Illinois, including Cook County. Northfield has been in the quarantine area since 2006 and in the summer of 2009, the first ash was removed due to EAB.

2. *What does the Emerald Ash Borer look like? What is its life cycle? How does it spread?* The adult beetle is metallic green and about the length of a penny. Adults emerge in May/June. Females lay eggs on ash bark two weeks later and the eggs hatch two weeks after that. The larvae bore into the cambium and feed from late July thru October. The larvae overwinter in the tree, pupate in spring and repeat the cycle. The EAB can fly up to half a mile when they emerge, but most infestation is due to the movement of firewood.



3. *How do I know if I have an ash?* Ash are not considered high quality trees, but they do flourish in wet soils, pollution and salty soils which made them a hardy urban tree choice leading to overplanting. Ash have opposite branching, pinnately compound leaves, with an oar shaped fruit called a samara. The EAB attack all species of ash, healthy or stressed. There are no natural enemies of EAB in the U.S.



4. *What are the symptoms of an infested ash?* The Emerald Ash Borer destroys the water and nutrient conducting tissues under the bark. The following symptoms appear: vertical splits or cracked bark above the larval feeding galleries, wilting and yellowing foliage throughout the tree, the top of the tree exhibits die-back, woodpeckers cause damage to the bark as they peck for larvae, branches sprout from the base of the tree and there are D-shaped exit holes caused by the adult exiting the tree. The EAB can infest the tree for up to four years before symptoms appear.



5. *Should I treat my ash tree?* The most effective way to treat your ash tree is as a preventative before infestation. However, the literature and experts report that ashes with even 10-20% loss due to EAB can still be effectively treated. Whether one should treat their ash with a pesticide depends on a variety of factors including: confirmation the ash has the Emerald Ash Borer, the value of your ash, a commitment to treat it every year versus replacement of the tree with a better species. To help with the above questions you should hire a reputable tree care company with a

licensed arborist on staff. Arborists are required to sign the Illinois Department of Agriculture Letter of Compliance to assure they dispose of the wood correctly at an approved site. Make sure to get references.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has registered three systemic insecticides for control of EAB – dinotefuran is registered for basal trunk bark or soil application, emamectin benzoate for trunk injection only, and imidacloprid for soil application or trunk injection.

Spring is the ideal time for treatment, but soil application in fall can be effective in some situations. Different treatment regimens will be optimal under different situations - *no one treatment plan or application method is best under all circumstances.*

- The average cost to remove a medium-sized tree and grind out the stump is about \$750 per tree. However, the cost can vary due to factors such as size, difficulty of access, and hazards such as closeness to houses or power lines.
- While the exact amount varies, the cost of yearly insecticide treatment can range from \$50 to \$200 per year per tree.

6. What can I do to help my ash and help my community? First, keep your trees healthy by properly watering and pruning them. Second, watch your ash trees for signs of infestation. If you notice these signs, contact a tree care company with a certified arborist on staff. For your valuable ash trees, consider a pesticide treatment that can be applied directly to the tree to save the tree from EAB damage. The owner of the property with the EAB-infested tree(s) bears primary responsibility for removing the trees. In Northfield, the Village bears responsibility for removing trees along Village parkways. On state or county roads, the state or county would bear responsibility.

7. What does it mean to be under quarantine for EAB infestation?

The quarantine is designed to slow the spread of EAB to other parts of the state. The quarantines prohibit the movement of the following: Firewood from hardwood (non-coniferous) species, entire ash trees, limbs and branches, logs or untreated ash lumber with bark attached and uncomposted ash chips larger than 1 inch in diameter.

8. Who do I call and where do I find other resources? Please call the Northfield Village Hall, 847-784-3555, or e-mail Linnea O'Neill at loneill@northfieldil.org if you have questions or notice declining ash on other property. Contact a reputable tree care company that has licensed arborists on staff and has signed the Letter of Compliance for treatment or removal.

Please visit the Village of Northfield website and the following websites for more information:

- www.northfieldil.org
- www.emeraldashborer.info
- www.mortonarb.org/tree-plant-advice
- www.illinoisEAB.com