Your Ash Tree & EAB

A checklist from The Morton Arboretum for homeowners dealing with the destructive EMERALD ASH BORER.

EAB is here. ☑

What will you do?

Millions of native ash trees are dying. Most will be killed by a tiny, metallic green beetle, the emerald ash borer (EAB).

EAB is spreading relentlessly. Although there are treatments, there is no known “silver bullet” for eradicating it.

The adult EAB beetle lays eggs on the bark of ash trees. The eggs hatch, and the young EAB larvae feed under the bark of the tree. They create channels or galleries, and eventually kill it. The tree may look healthy, but it is being strangled.

In your town, 10 to 40 percent of the trees may be ash. You may even have one in your yard.

This checklist will help you understand your options to treat your ash tree or remove it.

1) □ Check your yard today.

Do you have an ash tree? Look for these characteristics:

- **opposite branching:** Each branch is paired with another directly across from it on the same limb.

- **compound leaves:** A leaf is made up of 5 to 11 small leaflets with a terminal leaflet pointing outward from the top of the leaf.

- **distinctive bark pattern:** Diamond-shaped furrows or “X” patterns are most visible on mature trees.

- **ash flower gall:** Some ash develop black or brown clustered balls from mutated flowers in spring that last into winter.

2) □ Look for symptoms of EAB.

- The tree canopy thins or dies back as nutrients and water can’t reach the top.

- Suckers or new young branches sprout from the tree’s trunk, lower branches, or base.

- Woodpeckers make holes in the bark or branches as they look for an EAB lunch.

Noticing symptoms early allows a greater range of management options. Healthy ash trees growing near infested ones are probably infested too.

3) □ Contact your municipality.

- Learn about your municipality’s EAB management plan. Trees in your parkway or along your street may belong to your community.

- Contact your municipality to learn typical price ranges for treatment or removals. In some instances, your community may have a contracted price for these services that is also available to residents.

4) □ Work with a professional.

- Get proposals from several licensed and insured companies. Each proposal should include the same services, such as chemical, brand name, method of application, concentration, treatment frequency, stump grinding, hauling, or disposal.

- Hire an ISA certified arborist and a certified pesticide applicator who are registered with your state’s Department of Agriculture for management of EAB infested trees or materials.

- Collaborate with your neighbors. The contractor may provide a better price for multiple trees in the same location.

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Even if your ash tree isn’t showing signs of stress, NOW is the time to consider your options.

A. Do you protect it?

If your tree has significant landscape or personal value, you may wish to treat it with insecticide. The sooner you start, the more likely the treatment will be successful. You’ll need to treat the tree over its lifetime and the cost may be offset by the expense of removing and replacing the tree. However, you’ll preserve its beauty and all its benefits (property value, shade, home energy savings, pollution removal, etc.) See “6: Insecticide Options.”

~ or ~

B. Do you cut it down and replace it?

If more than 30 percent of your tree’s canopy has died, EAB has significantly damaged it. It may be better to remove it. If left untreated, your tree will soon become a hazard by dropping limbs or even falling over.

Want to replace it? Choose a tree that is suitable for your growing conditions and that isn’t common on your street. Why? Planting a variety of species limits the damage of future infestations by other insects or diseases. Consult with your municipality or the Arboretum website for recommended or approved tree species.

6} Review insecticide options.

Timing recommendations may need to be adjusted for geographical location and seasonal variability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPLICATION METHOD</th>
<th>BRAND NAME</th>
<th>INSECTICIDE ACTIVE INGREDIENT</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED TIMING OF APPLICATION</th>
<th>SUGGESTED TREE SIZE (DBH*)</th>
<th>CHEMICAL LIFE (APPLICATION)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soil injection or drench</td>
<td>Bayer Advanced/ Ferti-lome</td>
<td>Imidacloprid</td>
<td>April – June September – November</td>
<td>Up to 15&quot; DBH</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granular soil drench</td>
<td>Green Light Product Line</td>
<td>Dinotefuran</td>
<td>April – June</td>
<td>Up to 12&quot; DBH</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trunk injection</td>
<td>TREE-age</td>
<td>Emamectin benzoate</td>
<td>Leaf Out May – August</td>
<td>15&quot;+ DBH</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil injection or drench</td>
<td>Merit/Xytect</td>
<td>Imidacloprid</td>
<td>April – June September – November</td>
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<td>1 year</td>
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<td>Soil injection or basal trunk spray</td>
<td>Safari or Transtect</td>
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CHART KEY

- Find it at your local hardware store or garden center.
- Call a professional, licensed or certified pesticide applicator. These treatments are restricted products and not available to homeowners.

Information based on the Emerald Ash Borer: Homeowner Guide to Insecticide Selection, Use, and Environmental Protection (Minnesota Department of Agriculture)

*DBH: Diameter at Breast Height is the diameter (circumference divided by 3.14) of tree taken at 4.5' off the ground.