

Managing Emerald Ash Borer in 2013

Managing emerald ash borer on your personal, municipal, or any type of property can be an extreme challenge. Many tools exist today that have shown promise and positive results in numerous university research and field trials in North America over the past several years. A good reference link on our EAB website is:

http://www.agr.state.il.us/eab/Insecticidal_Management.htm

Deciding which management tools and options one would use should be based on a best management practices plan and the use of integrated pest management strategies. How you develop your best management practices and integrated pest management strategies should be determined by the following facts:

1. Determining what your ultimate long term goal is. It may be, but is not limited to, ash conservation/preservation, vegetative diversity, wildlife habitat, encouraging new animal and insect visitors, property (resale) value, energy/utility savings, water management, aesthetics, and privacy. Establishing what your desired outcome is will narrow down your management options and help you focus efforts with the appropriate tools.
2. Your ash tree inventory – your number of ash trees, the health/condition of each ash tree, the location of each ash tree, the species of each ash tree, and the % ash is of your entire forest canopy. Inventory all of your tree resources if possible. This will help you reach a goal of a very diverse forest canopy which will benefit the long term management strategies of your entire forest resource.
3. Inventory your human and equipment resources. This will help you know what you can do or if you may need to consult and contract outside resources.
4. Inventory your financial resources and ask: what are your abilities to leverage more financial resources if they are needed?
5. Use as current science based facts as possible regarding existing management tools. Reference links to insecticidal and other management strategies at this web site:
<http://www.agr.state.il.us/eab/index.php>
6. Asking an expert. The key is to talk with multiple sources about multiple topics. Most home and land owners are not tree experts, so don't expect to have or find all of the answers on your own. Consult with municipal or private industry arborists, university scientists and extension services, departments of agriculture, forest preserve districts, or DNRs depending upon the nature of your property and situation. These people not only have the educational background to address this issue, but also have the field knowledge and experience to make decisions, observations, and determinations based on what they know, have seen, and have experienced. They also have access to research and practical studies that may not be readily available to the general public.