

DATE:

Contact Name and Number:

Insert Municipality Logo:

Generic EAB Press Release

<MUNICIPALITY NAME> latest victim of EAB

<MUNICIPALITY NAME>, IL – <Municipality name>, Illinois of <county name> is the latest community to discover the ravages of the emerald ash borer (EAB). The EAB infestation was found on <description or address of infested site>. The Illinois Department of Agriculture has confirmed the infestation on <date>.

The EAB discovery was made on <date>, when <describe circumstances>. <Title and Name of person related to find> went out to survey the tree. “Quote,” says <person related to circumstance>.

<Municipality Public Works, or city forester> <describe how the area was surveyed and the extent of damage that was determined for the area. Also tell if the trees have been removed or plans to remove them on certain date>.

The recent and numerous EAB finds underscore the need for all communities and especially neighboring communities to be proactive against EAB. IDA urges community officials to initiate an ash-tree-reduction-strategy within their districts. “Begin by taking inventory of all ash trees within the community, budget needs for labor and equipment should large-scale ash tree removals be necessary. Then aggressively begin to cull your poor-conditioned ash trees. Work with local tree care professionals, as they are generally the first line of detection. Establish a formal plan to record and report inventory reduction and reforestation activities. Start now to develop a communication plan should the emerald ash borer be found in your community,” says Warren Goetsch, Environmental Programs bureau chief.

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a small, metallic green, non-native invasive pest whose larvae feast on the trunks of ash trees thereby cutting off their ability to transport nutrients and ultimately causing the tree’s decline. Ash trees can be infested with EAB for a few years before the tree begins to demonstrate any signs of EAB infestation. Symptoms of EAB include canopy dieback, D-shaped exit holes, shoots sprouting from the tree trunks and S-shaped larval galleries underneath the bark.

Ash tree owners may ask about treatment options in order to avoid removing their trees; however the only guaranteed method to control Emerald Ash Borer is to remove the host tree(s). When considering usage of insecticidal control, one should weigh the value of the tree against the cost of treatment.

“The Illinois Department of Agriculture certainly supports a tree owner’s right to determine for themselves whether a pesticide treatment is appropriate in their specific circumstance,” Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau Manager of Environmental Programs Warren Goetsch said. “Tree owners are encouraged to thoroughly research the various treatment options currently available and carefully weigh the costs associated with the required repeated treatments. Please be advised, however, that treatment of an ash tree will not guarantee that a specific tree might eventually be required to be removed.”

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Under the provisions of the State of Illinois' Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act, as well as the Nuisance Declaration issued in July 2006, the state has the authority to order the removal of any tree infested with the Emerald Ash Borer, regardless of whether it has been previously treated with a pesticide or not. The state has not exercised this authority to date, as all Emerald Ash Borer-related tree removals have been done on a voluntary basis

EAB was first discovered in Illinois in June 2006, in the Windings near Lily Lake in Kane County. The Illinois Department of Agriculture has since confirmed EAB infestations in several communities within Kane, Cook, DuPage, LaSalle Will and most recently McHenry counties and has issued a quarantine **affecting all or parts of 18 of the northeastern-most counties of the state <verify that this quarantine boundary has not changed>**. As part of a cooperative agreement with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), IDA is responsible for EAB survey, control/eradication and outreach.

EAB was first discovered in North America in 2002 in the Detroit and Ontario areas. Since then, it is estimated that approximately 25 million ash trees in North America have been felled due to EAB.

A computerized inventory of all parkway and public property trees indicates that the **<Municipality Name>** has approximately **##** ash trees which makes up only **## %** of the village's **###** total canopy. Fortunately, as a Tree City USA community, **<Municipality Name>** practiced planting a variety of species to avoid a major devastation of the community's canopy. As a proactive measure to limit the possible damage from an EAB infestation, the **<Municipality Name>** began assessing; culling and removing stressed and damaged ash trees in **<year>**.

City staff members will respond immediately to suspect sighting of EAB. It is very important for area residents to be aware and vigilant in inspecting their ash trees for this pest. If you suspect you may have found adult or larval form of this insect, contact the **<Municipality Name's Public Works Department>**, at **<Phone Number>**, or email digital photos to the Illinois Department of Agriculture at agr.eab@illinois.gov

Additional information can be obtained by visiting the following links:

www.emeraldashborer.info/
www.agr.state.il.us/newsrels/r0727062.html
www.IllinoisEAB.com
www.agr.state.il.us/
www.na.fs.fed.us/thp/eab
www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/eab/
www.mortonarb.org

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