

INFORMATION REGARDING EMERALD ASH BORER (Pest affecting Ash Trees)

Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is a small green invasive wood boring beetle that attacks and kills ash trees. The adults live on the outside of ash trees feeding on the leaves during the summer months. The larvae look similar to white grubs and feed on the living plant tissue (phloem and cambium) underneath the bark of ash trees. The trees are killed by the tunneling activity of the larvae under the tree's bark, which disrupts the vascular flow.

The Emerald Ash Borer has been confirmed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Polk County, including the Des Moines metro. The DNR recommends the preventative treatment of ash trees once the insect has been confirmed within fifteen miles of a community.

Urbandale residents and business owners are responsible for the treatment or removal of infested ash trees on their respective property.

There are three common treatment methods being used: trunk injection, soil injection, and soil drenching. Research has proven that the trunk injection method has been the most successful in preserving the ash tree. The DNR and City staff encourages the trunk injection method as the most successful treatment as well as the safest for the environment. The other methods used have proven more likely to leach or drift from the target area and be a danger to ground water supplies. The City encourages residents to consider using contractors who choose to primarily use the trunk injection method of treatment.

How will the City address the EAB on City property?

Once the Emerald Ash borer has been confirmed in our community, the City of Urbandale has chosen to treat selective ash trees throughout the City and Park system and will only use the trunk injection method. All other ash trees will be monitored for health and removed as deemed necessary. The City is being proactive with the diversification of its tree population, to be prepared for diseases and/or pests such as the EAB which may devastate a certain variety of tree and require tree removal.

If a resident chooses to treat their ash trees for the EAB, and works with a contractor, the City suggests using the competitive quote process to ensure cost efficiency and optimum effectiveness for their trees. In addition, below are a few suggested questions to ask a contractor to ensure you are receiving the appropriate service for preventative or curative treatment for the Emerald Ash Borer.

Questions or Criteria to consider for contractors:

- Are they currently registered with the Department of Agriculture/ Pesticide Division?
- Do they have current licensed pesticide applicators on staff?
- Ask for confirmation that the contractor is licensed and bonded.
- Enquire about their application methods **(trunk injection method is recommended)**.
- Ask about time frame most effective for treatment. Research has shown treatments are most effective after leaves have fully emerged in the spring, through the summer and while leaves remain on the trees in the fall, approximately from May 15-September 15.
- Contractors should never treat City owned trees at the request of the property owner. Please contact the City of Urbandale for trees of concern on City property @ 331-6799.