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FACT SHEET

Emerald Ash Borer QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

On May 14, 2009, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed as present in the South Saint Anthony Park neighborhood in South St. Anthony Park. EAB is a serious invasive tree pest and, consequently, a quarantine has been placed on Ramsey and Hennepin counties to help slow the spread of EAB to other areas.

1. How many trees were infested in South St. Anthony Park?

Sixty eight trees were confirmed as infested—34 public, 34 private, and they were moved and destroyed during the first week of June. More infested trees are undoubtedly present inside and outside of this neighborhood, but remain undiscovered.

2 What Do I Do if I think I have Emerald Ash Borer?

Visit our website at **http://www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/eab** and look on the right hand side for "Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?" Follow the instructions on the checklist. If you do not have access to the web, call the MDA's Arrest the Pest Hotline at 651-201-6684 (Metro Area) or 1-888-545-6684 (Greater Minnesota). You can also email us at Arrest.The.Pest@state.mn.us.

3. What does living in a quarantine area mean?

Hennepin and Ramsey Counties have been declared a quarantine area. This means that ash debris and firewood (including non-coniferous firewood) cannot be transported out of the counties by anyone, including residents and commercial businesses; however, ash and other wood debris can move within, between, and into the quarantined counties. To reduce the spread of EAB within the quarantine area, it is recommended that ash debris and firewood are disposed of or used as locally as possible.

4. If I have uninfested ash trees, should I immediately remove them?

No. Removing ash trees that are not known to be infested is not recommended at this time for many reasons—one of which is because the extent and the "epicenter" of the infestation is not fully known. Because the extent of the infestation is not known, most experts agree that removal of uninfested ash trees is premature.

- When ash trees can be safely removed and chipped: October through April
- A number of waste sites are available in both Ramsey and Hennepin counties for commerical and residential drop off of tree debris. A list of sites and contact information is available at our website.

5. What simple things I can do to help prevent my ash tree from being infested?

Unfortunately, there is no way to guarantee that ashes won't get infested; this is why EAB is such a problematic tree pest.

It is recommended to postpone pruning to late fall and winter months when the trees are dormant—especially in areas where EAB has been confirmed; this will help prevent further movement of EAB. Meanwhile, watch your trees for signs of infestation, and contact a city forester or tree care company with a certified staff arborist when you have questions. For a list of signs and symptoms of EAB visit our website.

EMERALD ASH BORER ADULT

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, an alternative form of communication is available upon request. TTY: 1-800-627-3529. MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

6. What other options are available for protecting ash trees?

For valuable ash trees, there are pesticide treatments that can be applied directly to the tree to save the tree from EAB damage, but it is important to select the right one for your trees—and to realize that the pesticides will need to be reapplied (and paid for at the homeowner's expense) after a certain length of time to maintain their protective effect. While some products can be applied by homeowners, others can only be applied by licensed commercial pesticide applicators. Ash trees greater than 15 inches in diameter are too big for the do-it-yourself treatments and need to be treated by a professional tree care company. One of the best sources of information about treatment options is the University of Minnesota Extension website at **www.extension.umn.edu/issues/eab** and see their section on "Management."

6a. Don't start treatments until the pest is near.

The rule of thumb is to start treatments when the nearest confirmed emerald ash borer infestation is within 10-15 miles of your property. With the infestation in St. Paul, this 15-mile radius now includes most of the Twin Cities metro area. See the quarantine map at our website under "Information for Homeowners and Residents"

7. How does the insecticide treatment work?

There are two common approaches to EAB control, both of which target the adult beetle. The first is a soil drench treatment taken up by the root system; the second is a trunk injection treatment. The latter approach is considered more effective and less impactful on the environment. Both treatments affect adults; some products may affect larvae in the tree. However, the injection treatments typically require specialized equipment and training and should be performed by a licensed tree care specialist. For information on insecticide treatments, visit the University of Minnesota Extension website.

8. Where can I take limbs that break off during the summer?

Residents with ash limbs and other ash tree debris in the quarantine area must take it to a designated site within the quarantine area. If possible don't create ash debris until fall. To help minimize the spread of EAB, dispose of your ash waste using the facility closest to the source of the tree. For a list of the sites that take tree waste within the quarantine area, visit the MDA website.

9. Can I trim my ash trees?

It is recommended to postpone pruning trees until late fall or winter (just like oaks). Emerald ash borer larvae can hide inside branches no thicker than your thumb. If your ash tree is infested and you move the infested branches to a different location, you may be helping the ash borer find new tree hosts. Also, the state quarantine in place for Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston counties prohibits the movement of any ash tree trimmings from those three counties into other counties.

10. If I remove an ash tree, what do I do with the stump?

Since ash tree stumps can remain living, and EAB larvae live in the cambium layer underneath the bark, it is strongly recommended to grind the stump out. Applying herbicide to the stump is another alternative, and debarking the stump as low as possible to the ground is a third option.

11. If government officials discover infested ash, do they order their removal? If so, during what timeframe do we order their removal? And who pays for the removal?

In St Paul, if confirmed infested trees are found on private property they will be ordered to be removed at the expense of the property owner. Infested ash trees on public property will be removed by the city.

12. Are there any resources available for residents thinking of replacing ash trees or planting trees other than ash?

Yes, you can find many recommended tree species at the following website. Keep diversity in mind as you select new trees, and be sure that the trees you're looking for can thrive in Plant Hardiness Zone 4. See **http://www.forestry.umn.edu/extension/** for more information.