

Emerald Ash Borer: Considerations for Homeowners before Selecting a Treatment Strategy



Consider These 3 Things before Choosing to Use an Insecticide:

1. Identify if EAB is Near

To prevent unnecessary use of insecticides, first identify how close EAB is to your property. If you want to protect a high-value ash tree, the rule of thumb is to start chemical treatments when an EAB infestation is confirmed near your property. Your ash trees may be at risk if your property is within 15 miles of an EAB infestation, or if your property is within a county that has been quarantined for EAB (as of April 2010, the list of quarantined counties in Minnesota includes Hennepin, Ramsey and Houston Counties). Treatment programs that begin too early may be a waste of money and may have unintended environmental consequences. Check the MDA's Interactive EAB Survey Map at <http://gis.mda.state.mn.us/eab/> for current EAB infestations.

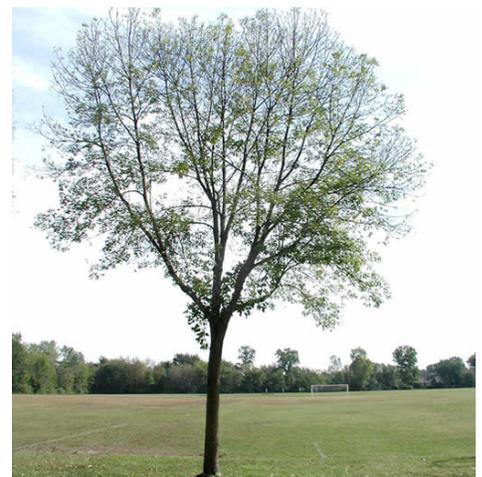


2. Consider Removing and Replacing the Ash Trees on Your Property

Consider whether ash trees on your property are worth protecting. Trees enhance a property's value, but it may be more cost effective to replace a small or struggling ash tree than to pay the cost of ongoing treatments. In addition, trees in poor or declining health are not likely to respond well to insecticide treatments. Treat with an insecticide only if the tree is apparently healthy or less than 50 percent of the crown is discolored or has sparse foliage.

Consider **tree removal** if your ash tree has:

- ✓ Greater than 50 percent crown dieback
- ✓ Extensive mower or trimmer damage
- ✓ Existing EAB damage (see www.emeraldashborer.info/files/E-2938.pdf)
- ✓ Poor location such as under power lines or too close to a structure
- ✓ Poor planting
- ✓ Previous topping or extreme pruning



An ash tree with 60% crown dieback.

3. Remember Treatment Requires a Long-Term Commitment

Once EAB arrives in an area, it will remain a constant threat to ash trees for many years to come. It is likely that protective treatments will be needed for the rest of the tree's life.

If You Choose to Use an Insecticide, Consider the Following:

1. Check Your Calendar – Timing is Everything

In Minnesota, experts advise that homeowner treatments target adult emerald ash borers, which are active in the summer. To ensure the product is in the leaves by the time adults emerge to feed in early to mid-June, products are most effective when applied several weeks in advance. **Optimal timing for most treatment methods is mid-April until the end of June.**

2. Contact a Certified Arborist or Your City Forester to Evaluate Treatment Options

If you've consulted with a certified arborist and decided to go ahead with insecticide treatment, consider the following:

- ✓ Your city or township may have particular requirements or prohibitions related to the treatment of EAB, especially for ash trees located on city property, which may include trees planted on or near boulevards or sidewalks. Check with your city's park and recreation or forestry departments.
- ✓ Many effective products are best administered by professionals. If hiring a professional, check to make sure that they are licensed in Minnesota as a commercial pesticide applicator for category "E: Turf and Ornamentals."
- ✓ There are homeowner treatment options for small ash trees, though these require careful application to avoid unintended environmental impacts. Homeowners wishing to protect trees larger than 4 feet in circumference (as measured 4½ feet above ground level) should consider having their trees professionally treated. Due to the chances of insecticide drift to other areas during a foliar or bark spray, they are best applied by professionals.

3. Read and Follow All Pesticide Product Labels

It is your legal responsibility to read, clearly understand, and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide product being used. To properly dispose of empty or incompletely used pesticide containers, visit MDA online at www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/spills/wastepesticides/schedule.aspx. To report a pesticide spill or misuse, call the Minnesota Duty Officer at **800-422-0798** or **651-649-5451**.

4. Protect Minnesota's Water Quality!

- ✓ Do not apply a soil drench, foliar or trunk spray closer than 25 feet from water bodies, including but not limited to streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands or conduits to surface water or groundwater such as street curbs, storm drains, sumps, or well heads.
- ✓ Do not apply a soil drench, foliar or trunk spray when heavy rainfall is expected within 24 hours of the planned treatment.
- ✓ Do not allow foliar or trunk sprays to drift. These sprays pose exposure risks to surface water, children, pets and nearby flowering plants (with potentially toxic affects to bees and other pollinators).
- ✓ When using the last of a liquid pesticide container, triple-rinse the container before container disposal, then apply the rinse water as you would apply the pesticide.

GO ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EMERALD ASH BORER:

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture - www.mda.state.mn.us/en/plants/pestmanagement/eab.aspx
- University of Minnesota Extension - www.extension.umn.edu/issues/eab
- USDA-APHIS – www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/eab
- City of St. Paul - www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=2495
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board - www.minneapolisparkeboard.org/default.asp?PageID=1059
- EAB Multi-State Site - www.emeraldashborer.info