



## **Emerald Ash Borer found in Prior Lake**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) confirmed an emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation in Prior Lake on Tuesday, August 25, 2015. The infested tree was detected through a call to the MDA's Arrest the Pest information phone line from a resident. Because of this find, Scott County will be put under an emergency quarantine and eventually join Anoka, Chisago, Dakota, Fillmore, Hennepin, Houston, Olmsted, Ramsey, and Winona counties in a state and federal quarantine. The quarantine is in place to help prevent EAB from spreading outside a known infested area. It is designed to limit the movement of any items that may be infested with EAB, including ash trees and ash tree limbs, as well as all hardwood firewood.

EAB is an insect that attacks and kills ash trees and is spread through the transport of firewood. The adults are small, iridescent green beetles that live outside of trees during the summer months. The larvae are grub or worm-like and live underneath the bark of ash trees. Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. It is spread through transported firewood.

The biggest risk of spreading EAB comes from people unknowingly moving firewood or other ash products harboring larvae.

### **Firewood DO'S:**

- Buy local firewood.
- Burn all firewood completely at each destination
- Move only Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Certified firewood out of a quarantine county or across state boundaries.
- Use firewood from nearby sources to heat your home or cabin.
- Tell your friends about the importance of not moving firewood.

### **Firewood DON'TS:**

- Move hardwood firewood out of a quarantine county, including Scott County, unless it is MDA or USDA certified.
- Move opened firewood bundles.
- Move firewood long distances to or from your lake home or cabin.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions concerning the Emerald Ash Borer:

### **What to look for if you suspect you may have EAB in your ash tree?**

- Step one of determining the presence of EAB is tree identification. The beetles are only attracted to ash trees. For further information on tree identification check out :  
<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/news/publications/ext/ashtreeid.pdf>

- **Canopy Thinning.** One of the first visible signs of a possible EAB infestation is the thinning of the top canopy of the ash tree.



- **Woodpecker Holes.** Woodpeckers like EAB larvae and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of EAB
- **Blonding.** A common sign of an EAB infestation is a heavy stripping of bark from the tree by woodpeckers going after the larvae. This “blonding” appearance can be patchy or encompass nearly an entire tree.



- **Bark Cracks.** EAB larvae tunneling beneath the bark can cause the bark to split open, revealing the larval galleries beneath
- **S-Shaped Galleries.** The distinct S-shaped galleries under the bark are diagnostic of EAB

The best time to look for evidence of EAB is after the tree has lost the foliage for the season.

#### What to do if you suspect that your tree may be infected by EAB.

- Call the City at 447-9800.
- Call a licensed arborist.
- Contact Arrest the Pest. Take pictures of the pest and send to [arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us](mailto:arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us)  
Or call 1-888-545-6684

#### What to do if you have a confirmed infestation of EAB?

- **Remove the tree:** Tree removal or pruning should be completed during the EAB dormant period, **October 1 through May 1**. By postponing removals until the fall, you can help reduce the risk of EAB spreading. If the tree is left intact during the EAB Active Period, it can provide habitat for EAB adults to lay eggs. But since the adults won't emerge until the following year, if this tree or branch is cut and properly disposed of during the EAB Dormant Period, any EAB that may exist in the ash material will be destroyed when the wood is destroyed.

If removal is necessary due to hazardous conditions then chip at least the outer 1" of bark/wood on site and transport to nearest facility that can process the material. Or transport at least outer 1" of bark/wood in a vehicle where it is 100% enclosed to the nearest facility that can quickly process the material. Material should remain enclosed until it can be, at a minimum,

chipped. Material moved during the EAB Active Period may release adults at any time during transportation into a previously un-infested area.

- **Treat the tree:** It is best to begin using insecticides while ash trees are relatively healthy. By the time that most people notice canopy dieback, EAB has already caused considerable injury to the vascular system of the tree. If there is more than 30% canopy loss, treatment is usually not effective and it is too late to save the tree.

Options to treat the tree include soil injection or drench, trunk injection, systematic bark spray and granules. Some of these are available for sale to homeowners. For further information on insecticides see the MDA website:

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/plants/pestmanagement/~media/Files/plants/eab/eabtreatmentguide2.ashx>

Two life stages of EAB are targeted by treatments: adult beetles and young larvae. Insecticides only work while they are present in the tree, and products are generally labeled for a one to two year of effectiveness. Treatment will need to be repeated to protect trees if EAB are still abundant enough in an area to cause significant injury when the effective period ends.

Contact a Certified Arborist or City Forester to evaluate treatment options. If hiring a professional, ask to see their licensure as a Commercial Pesticide Applicator for category “E: Turf and Ornamentals”.

For more information on emerald ash borer, go to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s website at [mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://mda.state.mn.us/eab).