

Suggestions for Emerald Ash Borer Community Preparation

Street Tree – Town Crew

1. Conduct a tree inventory of community/township/acreage. Determine the number of ash trees in this area. Ideally, this should be a 100% inventory; a stratified sample is the next best option.
2. Determine the apparent health of the trees. If some ash trees are declining/dying/ poor condition, remove and replace with species to improve the diversity of the area. When canopy decline is 50% or greater, the EAB infestation to that tree is usually fatal. A visual rating scale of ash canopy decline is given at the following web site:
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/promising_results_for_those_wanting_to_protect_their_trees_from_emerald_ash
3. Develop a community street tree planting plan based on current inventory data and with the goal of diversifying the street tree composition.
4. Determine if your community has existing tree ordinances. If so, are they in need of updating? If they do not exist, are they needed? Is there an interest in setting up a tree ordinance for the community/township?
 - a. ISA guidelines: www.isa-arbor.com/publications/ordinance.aspx
 - b. Question: Will this help in containing/controlling EAB? Answer: For the exotic Asian longhorned beetle, control was possible in areas where regulators had access to infested trees (preventive treatment or removal), but have been hampered where they had to pursue legal avenues to access infested trees.
5. Determine community's/township's response for:
 - a. Who will be THE contact person for the community concerning EAB infested/ suspected trees? All work needs to funnel through this person/office. Develop a transfer protocol so other work does not suffer.
 - b. Tree removals. Who will do this? In-house versus contracted.
 - i. In-house: Is the current equipment adequate to handle 20+”dbh trees? Does the equipment (chainsaws, chippers, bucket trucks, stump grinders) need updating or replacing? Is the labor force adequate? Do you have the safety training and experience to work in and around homes and power lines? Are there higher insurance costs associated with the town/community removing a larger number of trees?
 - ii. Contracted: Will bids be for individual trees or a combination/lot of trees? What level of insurance will the community/township require of these contractors who will do the work? Now is the time to develop a request for proposals/bids document for your community.

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- iii. Examples of previous bids at:
 - 1. <http://www.villageoffrankfort.com/assets/pdf/2012/VOF%20Ash%20Tree%20Removal%20RFP.pdf>
 - 2. http://www.wilmette.com/assets/1/documents/Parkway_Ash_Tree_-_Tree_s_R_Us.pdf
 - iv. Map of primary and secondary removal areas. For the area considered, determine which trees pose a greater hazard to the community/ township than others and prioritize accordingly. Walkways to schools, primary roads, access to hospitals, food/gas services should take priority.
 - c. Green dump site. Where will removed trees/branches be held prior to disposal (chipping/burning/burying)? Who will process the green waste for the community/area? Can the ash wood be utilized for co-fire ethanol plants or co-generation power facilities? One MI ash wood utilization project web site has several ideas for utilizing wood: <http://www.semircd.org/ash/education/resources.php#3>
 - d. Preventive treatments for specimen trees on public property. See PM 2084 at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html>. Budgetary item for community/township. How long will the preventive plan be sponsored – 3, 5, or 10 years? Need to have contract with landowner, city, and company providing service? Who will provide the recommendation? Who will follow up to see that work was done properly and was effective at controlling EAB?
 - e. Tree removal budget. With several hundred ash trees, this will need to be a separate budget item. What budgeted items will have to wait? Should a portion of the budget surplus be set aside in preparation for increased tree care costs?
 - f. Updating tree inventory. Who will do this as trees are removed and replaced?
 - g. Increased energy costs and water bills. Loss of trees means loss of shade in summer and windbreaks in winter.
 - h. Community pre-planning work for grants and/or revolving loans to replace trees destroyed by EAB. This will help the citizens to plan for the rebuilding of the community's tree canopy.
6. Review Iowa's Emerald Ash Borer Readiness Plan: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html>
7. Participate in Iowa State University Extension programs to assist when possible and to relay consistent information.
- a. First Detector Training: Laura Jesse (515) 294-0581; ljesse@iastate.edu
 - b. Master Woodland Managers: Jesse Randall (515) 294-1168; randallj@iastate.edu
 - c. Community Tree Stewards: Jesse Randall (515) 294-1168; randallj@iastate.edu

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Yard Tree – Private Landowner Items

1. Encourage community members to begin evaluating and replacing non-street ash trees with a more diverse mix of species. Provide some incentive for proactive replacement of dead/dying/declining/poor conditioned ash trees by enrolling in Residential Shade Tree Planting programs offered by local energy companies.
 - a. <http://www.alliantenergy.com/CommunityInvolvement/CommunityOutreach/OperationReLeaf/index.htm>
 - b. http://www.midamericanenergy.com/ee/ia_res_shade.aspx
2. Provide citizens with a list of alternate species to replace the ash tree being removed. Tree selections and planting guidelines provided at these sites:
 - a. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html>
 - b. http://www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry/publications/PDF_files/F-375.pdf
 - c. http://www.extension.iastate.edu/forestry/publications/PDF_files/F-319.pdf
3. Public awareness through education. Frequently Asked Questions about EAB and Look Alike slide sets/scripts available at: www.extension.iastate.edu/pme/EmeraldAshBorer.html
4. Public awareness of national and state information about EAB
 - a. National EAB Web site: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>
 - b. Iowa Tree Pests Web site: <http://www.iowatreepests.com/>
5. Public awareness of long-range movement of emerald ash borer, including intra- and inter-state quarantines. Primary avenues of man-assisted movement via:
 - a. Firewood – campgrounds. Some campgrounds require purchasing any firewood on site. **Buy only local firewood.**
 - b. Logs/branches – sawmills/wood processing sites/pallet manufacturers.
 - c. Nursery stock – landscapers, garden centers, any retailers selling trees. **Stop selling ash trees.**
 - d. Slab wood – various uses. **Do not move any ash wood that has bark intact from infested areas to uninfested areas.**
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