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PREPARING FOR EMERALD ASH BORER

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DELAWARE CITIES

BACKGROUND

Once established, Emerald ash borer (EAB) will spread quickly and infest all ash trees in a city. With no control measures taken, the city can expect all ash trees to die within 6-10 years. For a city (or other organization) that is responsible for maintaining street, park or other trees, this presents a huge financial liability. For example, Fort Wayne, IN first discovered EAB in 2006 and had to remove 9,000 trees between 2011 and 2012. Fort Wayne reported not only financial hardship, but the massive tree removal exceeded what local arborists could handle. In addition to the costs, EAB threatens city tree canopy cover which affects the value of property and parks.

Given this reality, city EAB management plans seek to limit sudden financial costs by spreading control costs over several years. Two methods are used which work together. Begin removing ash trees early to reduce inventory and apply chemical treatments to some trees to prevent infestation.

EAB MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are based on EAB Plans for the 4 cities (listed on back). All plans were written for cities that expected to become infested within 5-10 years.

PRE-INFESTATION (NOW!)

- Complete a current inventory of city-owned ash trees, assessing value and condition. Identify high value ash and/or ash in circumstances with high removal costs.
- Project removal and treatment costs.
- Begin removal of ash trees in poor condition to the inventory owned by the city. Many cities plan to remove most ash trees within 10 years.
- Replace with non-ash species early so new trees can grow and mitigate future canopy loss.
- Plan an ash treatment program. Treatment can protect high value ash and can extend the life of some trees, making high removal costs more manageable by spreading costs out over several years. Pesticide treatments are best applied preventatively and treatments should begin when infestation is imminent.

INFESTATION-IMMINENT (EAB WITHIN 15 MILES)

- Begin ash treatment program.
- Continue evaluating the ash inventory, removing selected ash trees, and replacing them with non-ash species.

POST-INFESTATION

- Continue treatment and removals. Closely monitor health of ash inventory.

EMERALD ASH BORER CITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Philadelphia, PA

- [City of Philadelphia Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan](#)
- At writing (2012) EAB had been detected within 15 miles of Philadelphia
- Plans include removing most ash trees over 10 years beginning in 2013.
- Small stands of ash in natural areas will be treated in an attempt to save genetic material.

Madison, WI

- [City of Madison Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan](#)
- At writing, EAB had not been found in Madison
- Management Strategies and Additional Recommendations (pp 10-13)
- Madison allows private property owners access to city arborist and pesticide contracts to treat privately owned ash at contract rates (but at not at city expense). They also allow homeowners to treat street tree ash that would otherwise be removed by the city as long as they are in good health.

La Crosse, WI

- [City of Madison Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan](#)
- Plan deals with an active EAB infestation in La Crosse
- Strategy for city-owned trees (pp 4)
- Privately owned trees (pp 6)

Des Plaines, IL

- [City of Des Plaines Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan](#)
- Management summary (pp 3)