



## **Treating Private Ash Trees for Emerald Ash Borer**

### **Pertinent Facts & Information to Consider**

#### **Emerald Ash Borer kills ash trees**

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) kills ash trees when the larva (immature beetle) eats the inner bark of the tree. This disrupts the tree's circulatory system for transporting food and water. As a result, an infested tree will die within 2 to 5 years. Millions of ash trees in the U.S. have been killed by EAB since it was first discovered.

#### **Treatment is an option**

There is nothing that prevents property owners from treating their private ash trees for EAB. An EAB infested ash tree may be saved by treatment if the infestation is caught early and the tree is otherwise healthy. However, once an infested ash tree has lost about 30% or more of its leaf canopy, it has become very compromised and is unlikely to survive even with treatment. By the time the MPRB has condemned a private infested tree, it is often past the point where treatment will be successful.

#### **Hire a professional**

The best way to treat a private ash tree is to hire a company that is a Licensed Tree Service Contractor with the City of Minneapolis. Trees should be treated by injecting the insecticide into the trunk. This places the insecticide into the tree's circulatory system which kills the feeding larva. Treatments need to be repeated every 2 to 3 years because the effectiveness of the insecticide eventually wears off. Cost is based on the trunk diameter size of the tree.

#### **Treatment is not guaranteed**

Property owners should be aware that there are companies that will treat private ash trees even when the chance of success is extremely low. EAB was first found in Minneapolis in 2010. Because the population of EAB has been growing since then, all of Hennepin County is under a high level of pest pressure. This means that it is highly likely that every ash tree in Minneapolis is infested with EAB.

#### **There can be an environmental risk**

It is important to know that any treatment with pesticides poses an environmental risk to pollinating insects, even when done by trunk injection. To minimize this risk, treatment should never be by soil drench or trunk spray. These methods pose the greatest environmental risks to pollinating insects because they are not contained within the tree.

#### **Notify the MPRB**

If a property owner has been notified by the MPRB that their private ash tree has been condemned due to an infestation of EAB, they must notify the MPRB if they intend to treat their tree. The MPRB will extend the removal deadline to allow time to see if the treatment is effective. The condemnation process will only resume if the treatment is determined not to be effective.

Licensed Tree Service Contractor with the City of Minneapolis

<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/business-services/licenses-permits-inspections/business-licenses/contractors/skilled-work/tree-servicing/licensed-tree-service/>