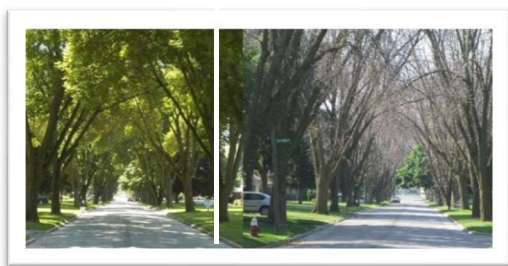


Forestry Division

EMERALD ASH BORER

What is Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)?

EAB is an emerald green beetle that feeds on Ash trees. The female lays her eggs in the bark of an Ash tree and once the young hatch, they burrow just under the bark. Once there, they feed on the tissues that deliver water and nutrients to the tree. In usually about a year, they chew their way out and start another life cycle.



Same street in Toledo, OH three years apart.
All ash trees are dead.

Should I be concerned?

EAB has killed hundreds of millions of trees nationwide and will continue to kill them no matter the health, age, or size. Depending on the size of the tree, EAB can be fatal in as little as a couple years. Once the tree is dead, it becomes very brittle and can cause damage to people and property. EAB attacks and kills all species of North American ash including white, green, and black ash.

What are the signs and symptoms of a tree with EAB?

A tree that has an EAB infestation will have thinning leaf canopy, "D" shaped holes about 1/8" wide, "S" shaped tunnels under the bark, bark loss, and adventitious growth (sprouts from the outer trunk, limbs, and/or base). The tree will usually die from the top down and evidence will generally appear on the south side of the tree first. There are many insects that feed on ash trees so not all holes in a tree will be EAB.

How do I know if I have an ash tree?

Ash trees have opposite leaf patterns, which means leaves, buds and stems are located directly across from each other. Ash leaves are compound and typically consist of 5-11 leaflets. On mature ash trees, the bark has a distinct pattern of diamond-shaped ridges. When seeds are present, they are paddle-shaped in clusters that stay on the tree until late fall or early winter.



What should I do if I suspect my ash tree has EAB?

If you think your tree might have EAB, you can contact the City of Kearney Park and Recreation Dept. or a local tree service.

Should I remove or treat my ash tree?

There are treatments available, including injections, implants, sprays, and soil applications. Treatments have pros and cons, and decision to treat or remove depends on different variables. Please contact City Forestry Staff and other resources to help determine what is best for you. The City does not recommend soil applications due to ground water implications.

Should I remove my ash tree before it gets EAB?

If your tree is healthy and in a good location it is not urgent that you remove your tree, but as a property owner you should begin to plan for the next steps. However, removing a tree somewhat early can have the benefits of providing space and additional time for a replacement tree to grow. This would also eliminate the possible need to remove a tree quickly when it dies, because ash trees become dangerous from falling branches soon after they are killed.

What should I look for when selecting a tree service?

Hire a reliable, insured, and experienced tree service, and ideally one that has a licensed arborist. Additionally, we recommend hiring a tree service that is registered with the City of Kearney. A list of registered tree service can be found at www.cityofkearney.org (forestry tab). We recommend that before you hire a company, that you obtain written estimates, consider references, confirm proof of insurance, and confirm disposal and site clean-up. Joining with neighbors to hire a single company, for a group of tree removals, may provide cost savings. For additional recommendations on hiring a tree service, visit our website www.cityofkearney.org (forestry tab).

What are my options with the wood once the tree is removed?

Typically, homeowners either choose to have the tree disposed at the landfill or used as firewood. If used as firewood, the wood should not be transported outside of 15 miles from the site the tree was removed to limit the spread of EAB.

Kearney Area Solid Waste Landfill Information:

Tree Debris: The tree area will accept limbs, branches and trunks. Branches less than 3" in diameter must be separated by the hauler and disposed on a separate pile. Trees in excess of 4" in diameter shall be separated by the hauler, cut into 6' lengths or smaller, and unloaded on a separate pile.

Covered Loads Required: All vehicles transporting refuse or waste to the landfill must take precautions to ensure that the refuse or waste materials will not be allowed to be blown, dropped, or strewn from the vehicle along the roads leading to the landfill. Tree debris must be roped, strapped, tarped, or netted in manner that the load is contained within the sides of a vehicle and not dragging.

Rates: Tree debris is accepted at the Kearney Area Solid Waste Agency Landfill at a rate of \$10.00 per ton of waste.

Service Area: The Kearney Area Solid Waste Agency Landfill is operated to serve the residents of Buffalo County.

Emerald Ash Borer Tree Removal Incentive Program:

In response to the eventual loss of Ash trees due to the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer, the City of Kearney has established an Ash Tree Removal Incentive Program for trees in the right-of-way. Right-of-way trees include those planted a least 5-feet from the back of curb, and not more than 20-feet into the yard.

EAB Tree Removal Incentive Program Guidelines:

1. Contact the Park and Recreation Department to confirm Ash trees on the property - EAB@kearneygov.org
2. Bring a receipt and reimbursement form to the Park and Recreation Office and then the City of Kearney will rebate up to 50% of the cost of the removal, not to exceed \$200 per each Ash tree on the property.
3. This program will continue as funding allows.

Please note that the City of Kearney also has a Street Tree Grant Program for replacing right-of-way trees. Go to www.cityofkearney.org/1050/Street-Tree-Grant-Program for information.

For additional information about EAB:

Arbor Day Foundation: <https://www.arborday.org/trees/health/pests/emerald-ash-borer.cfm>

Nebraska Forest Service: <https://nfs.unl.edu/nebraska-eab>

Nebraska Department of Agriculture: <https://nda.nebraska.gov/plant/entomology/eab/>

USDA: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/emerald-ash-borer>

EAB network: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

Kearney City Code

7-505 MAINTENANCE OF STREET TREES ... "the trimming, spraying, removing, and destroying of all trees now existing, the selecting, planting, trimming, spraying, removing, and destroying of all street trees hereafter planted in or upon any street, parkway, sidewalk space, or other public right-of-way within the City, shall be done by and at the expense of the property owner" ... (Ord. No. 7352, 5-8-2007)

QUESTIONS

The City of Kearney Park & Recreation Department Forestry Division does provide consultation to Kearney residents. Please email questions related to the Emerald Ash Borer to:

EAB@kearneygov.org

City Forester: Alan Roesler -- Asst. City Forester: Mike Fearnley

