

Emerald Ash Borer - Answers for Sterling Residents

Why do ash trees have tags on them?

The City decided to tag ash trees on public property to

- a. **raise awareness about Emerald Ash Borer**
- b. **learn how many ash trees there are on public property.** Knowing the number, location, and size of all the ash trees will help the city plan for Emerald Ash Borer's arrival. We will know how many trees we will lose in Sterling and how much it is going to cost to remove them.

What is EAB?

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a beetle that kills ash trees.

What types of trees does the emerald ash borer attack?

Only ash trees. Sterling has green ash and white ash. Possibly blue ash.

How big a problem is EAB?

EAB is becoming an international problem, with infestations in Canada as well as Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The scope of this problem could reach the billions of dollars nationwide if not dealt with. State and federal agencies have made this problem a priority.

Is EAB in Sterling?

Not yet, but it is in many other communities in Northern Illinois. It is guaranteed to eventually kill most ash trees in this region of the country.

What is the City of Sterling going to do about EAB?

The Sterling Tree Board will be able to make decisions about EAB management as soon as they know how many ash trees we have in town and their size and location. The ash tagging project will help with that.

Can you treat a tree that has EAB?

- There is a preventative insecticide--It must be applied before the tree becomes infested with EAB. It is very expensive because it must be applied every year or every other year depending on the product. It is generally only recommended for highly valuable trees.
- Communities sometimes use the treatment to delay removing trees when the cost becomes unmanageable. Sterling will be able to determine whether that is a viable management action after we determine how many ash trees we have.

What should I do if I want to treat an ash tree in my yard (private property)?

You can contact a certified arborist to find out if your tree is a candidate for preventative treatment. You can find an arborist at www.isa-arbor.com.

May I pay to treat a tree on the boulevard or other public property?

You must contact the City before treating City tree. Please contact Rick Powers, Public Works Superintendent, at 815-632-6657.

What do emerald ash borers look like?

The adult beetle is dark metallic green in color, 1/2 inch-long and 1/8 inch wide.

How is this pest spread?

We know EAB adults can fly at least 1/2 mile from the tree where they emerge. Many infestations, however, were started when people moved infested ash nursery trees, logs, or firewood into uninfested areas. Shipments of ash nursery trees and ash logs with bark are now regulated, and transporting firewood outside of the quarantined areas is illegal, but transport of infested firewood remains a problem. ***PLEASE - do not move any ash firewood or logs outside of the quarantined area.***

What can I do to help?

1. Carefully monitor their ash trees for signs and symptoms of EAB throughout the year.
2. Don't move firewood. This is the main cause of EAB spread.
3. Teach others about EAB.

Where can I get more information?

City Hall has pamphlets with options for homeowners and color pictures.

www.emeraldashborer.info

www.illinoiseab.com

USDA Emerald Ash Borer Hotline (toll-free) 1-866-322-4512

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