

# Emerald Ash Borer in Upper Arlington

## A Reference Guide to EAB Infestation in UA

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)?**

**A:** EAB is an imported insect that kills native ash trees. It is thought to have come from Asia to the US on cargo ships. It was first identified in the US in 2002.

**Q: Can we do anything to keep EAB out of UA?**

**A:** No—all of central Ohio is now heavily infested. Most ash trees in UA are probably infested with at least some borers and many ashes are dying or are already dead.

**Q: What kind of damage does EAB do?**

**A:** EAB larvae tunnel under the bark of the tree, feeding on and damaging the phloem, which is responsible for transporting nutrients to the roots. This causes the roots to starve, the crown to thin and the branches to die, eventually causing the tree to die.

**Q: What should homeowners do to prepare for this insect?**

**A:** Establish a relationship with an ISA Certified Arborist to inspect and maintain ash trees. Several local companies offer protective pesticide treatments that work well if applied properly every year or two. Dying trees may not be salvageable.

**Q: How much does it cost to remove an ash tree?**

**A:** Costs could range from \$500 up to several thousand dollars, depending on the tree size, condition and location. Residents should hire reputable companies with proof of liability insurance and workers' compensation coverage. Ash tree owners should plan to remove trees soon unless the trees are being treated.

**Q: How can residents identify ash trees?**

**A:** To identify ashes in your yard, you can look at branch



and bud attachment (branches and buds are attached to the trunk directly opposite each other); leaf composition (ashes have a compound leaf containing seven-11 leaflets); and the fruit (ashes have samaras which look like a miniature paddle).

**Q: What is the City doing about ash trees in parks?**

**A:** Ashes in the parks along pathways or near buildings are being removed as they become a threat to public safety. Trees in wooded areas that pose no threat are being left to fall and decay naturally.

**Q: Will the City force residents to remove ash trees in their yards?**

**A:** City Code § 907.03(B) allows the City to enforce removal of privately owned hazardous trees, at the expense of the homeowner, if a tree is a threat to the right of way or public safety. The code also allows a Staff Certified Arborist to determine if a private tree has become a hazard to persons, buildings, or structures on private property, and to require the removal of such trees. In other words, if



your tree threatens a neighbor, the City can condemn your tree. This is necessary because once an ash tree dies of an EAB infestation, it becomes brittle and will quickly fall or break apart. Ash trees that are healthy or trees that do not present a danger to others can be left or removed at the property owner's discretion.

**Q: Why is the City's cost recovery set at 150% for private tree removals?**

**A:** To cover administrative costs and to encourage property owners to contact professional arborists directly instead of forcing the City to get involved, the City charges or assesses private property owners for 150% of removal costs. This occurs only if the City is forced to remove dangerous trees on private property after the property owner has refused to act responsibly.

**Predictions for EAB & Upper Arlington**

Less than 1% of the ashes alive today in Ohio will be alive in 20 years. Other species that depend on ash in the forest for survival may also disappear. Someday there may be hybrid ashes that will live despite EAB, but that is many years away.

In UA, all untreated ashes will be dead in five to seven years. Treated trees may persist for decades as long as treatment continues. Northwest Ohio is almost ashless already, while southern Ohio has not yet been invaded. In remote parts of the US and Canada, it will take decades for EAB to reach isolated ash populations.

Luckily, treatments with systemic insecticides are effective if the tree is treated while still healthy. Once a tree is dying, its circulatory system is too compromised to effectively distribute the insecticide throughout the tree's tissues.



*Adult EAB and larva on bark.*

**Is your ash infested?  
Here are some examples of  
what to look for.**



*D-shaped exit holes.*



*Larvae gallery under bark.*



*Sprouting and dieback.*



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