



CITY OF GAHANNA

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

EMERALD ASH BORER PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive insect that was first discovered in Detroit, Michigan in 2002. The insect has spread to Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Ontario, Canada. It attacks all varieties of ash trees. EAB has been found in 40 counties in Ohio, all of which are under quarantine to help prevent its spread. EAB has recently been found in, and is spreading throughout The City of Gahanna. Once infested, trees may show little sign of the pest for the first year or two. The larval stage of EAB feeds under the bark of trees, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients. They emerge as an adult the following year leaving a D – shaped exit hole. Adults are dark metallic green, ½” in length and 1/8” wide. The EAB flies from early May until September. Ash trees that become infested with EAB typically die within five years.

Dead or declining ash trees lose strength more rapidly than other trees such as maple or oak. Ash has the undesirable characteristic of being a self-pruning tree as dead branches shear close to the main stem. Self-pruning is undesirable in proximity to people as branches fall without warning, thus placing residents and property at risk. This means that trees will need to be removed relatively quickly after they are compromised by the EAB.

The City of Gahanna has 1660 inventoried ash trees on public property or in the right of ways. As of 2007 approximately 25% of these trees are 10” – 16” in diameter, 50% are 5” – 10” in diameter, and 25% under 5” in diameter. Private properties have not been inventoried.

PUBLIC TREES

Due to economic limitations the City of Gahanna only has the ability to deal with infested trees on an as needed basis. Trees on public property that are deemed to be a hazard by the City arborist will be removed. As funds are available, the stumps of the removed tree will be ground and a new tree of a different species will be planted. Trees will be planted in accordance to the latest spacing guidelines called for in the City Ordinance. The replacement tree will range from 1.5” to 2.5” in diameter based on what is available in local nurseries.

Pesticides

The City of Gahanna does plan to treat trees with pesticides for EAB but treatment will be based on a case-by-case basis. Breadth of treatment will be dependant by the program’s level of funding. Residents in the area immediately adjacent to treated trees will be notified prior to beginning treatment.

Wood Disposal

Due to changes in recommendations by the Department of Agriculture and the State Forestry Department, infested wood can be disposed of by chipping it to 1" or smaller and recycle it with other yard waste. The City of Gahanna's chippers has been adjusted to 1" to be in compliance with State guidelines. The movement of ash trees, lumber or firewood from Franklin County is prohibited without a permit.

Privately Owned Ash Trees

While the city cannot be responsible for private property including street trees located on private property, it is strongly recommended that if the EAB is suspected, residents should consult an arborist immediately. Residents are invited to visit www.gahanna.gov for reference information and links regarding the EAB. The City of Gahanna strongly recommends that private property owners remove infested trees on their property and replace them with a resistant species or implement a treatment program as prescribed by a qualified arborist.