



Delano

MINNESOTA

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Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan

Introduction:

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a non-native insect that was introduced to North America from Asia. It was discovered in the Detroit, Michigan/Windsor, Ontario area in 2002. Despite eradication and suppression efforts, EAB has killed over 20 million Ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland and Ontario.

EAB is a beetle that is smaller than a dime. The adult does very little damage. However, this is not the case with the larvae (immature stage) that feed on the inner bark of Ash trees. This feeding disrupts the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Larval feeding takes place over a period of years and eventually kills the infested tree. All species of Ash are susceptible. Because EAB is hard to detect, it can be present for years before an infestation is confirmed. One sign to be aware is adult EAB leave a *D-shaped exit hole in the bark* when they emerge in the spring. If noticed in any Ash trees in the area, please contact the City of Delano immediately.

There are currently no known control measures for EAB. This means that it has the potential of killing millions of Ash trees throughout the United States and Canada. The City of Delano must prepare and manage for the arrival of EAB on three fronts – street trees, public property (i.e. parks) and trees on private property.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) completed a Community Tree Survey within the City of Delano in 2010. The results of the survey showed a population of Ash trees totaling 3,400 or 14.6% of the tree population within the city.

Current evidence from Michigan and Ohio show that once EAB becomes established – it takes EAB five to ten years to infest and kill the majority of the ash trees within a city.

The following elements of the City's EAB management plan are subject to periodic revision as new information about the EAB becomes available. This plan is also subject to change should state or federal policy dictate.

Administration:

The Delano Public Works Department will be responsible for implementing and follow up on the provisions of this plan.

Boulevard Trees:

1. The City will begin the policy of excluding any new ash trees on public property and boulevards – with the recommendation that citizens and businesses discontinue the use of ash in new plantings.

2. Ash trees that are removed will be replaced; species diversity will be a planting objective to better protect our community's trees in the future.
3. The City of Delano Public Works Department will continue to monitor all trees within the Boulevard to ensure high quality and healthy trees.
4. Trees removed must be replaced with an approved and permitted trees authorized by the City of Delano.

Park Trees and Public Space:

1. The City will begin the policy of excluding any new ash trees within park land and public spaces.
2. The Delano Public Works Department will continue to monitor all trees within City parks and public spaces to ensure high quality and healthy trees.
3. The City will cooperate with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to establish EAB detection trees as needed within City parks and public spaces.
4. Ash trees within parks and public spaces will be left alone and not removed unless found diseased or unsafe. If it is an early EAB infestation the City will remove infested trees as needed and disposed of properly.

Trees on Private Property:

1. There are many ash trees large and small on private properties within the City of Delano. No reliable inventory exists, and ash densities vary by neighborhood.
2. Property owners are urged to monitor for the EAB.
3. The City encourages residents to replace trees lost with species appropriate for the site, or to plan new trees in advance of EAB infestation and ash removal as a way of tree canopy cover and lessening the large economic and environmental impact of the EAB.

Links to Websites:

U.S.D.A. Forest Service: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/index.cfm>

Minnesota Department of Agriculture: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.htm>