

# EMERALD ASH BORER Q&A

## WHAT IS EAB?

The Emerald Ash Borer is a beetle native to north-eastern Asia that feeds on ash species. Females lay eggs in bark crevices on ash trees and larvae feed underneath the bark of ash trees to emerge as adult in one to two years.



What are the signs and symptoms of EAB? Canopy leaves dieback, Woodpecker activity and bark splitting are all signs an ash tree has EAB.



## WHY DID THE ASH TREES DIE?

Emerald Ash Borer is a small insect that swept the region in recent years that nests and feeds off ash trees, ultimately killing the tree.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVING DEAD ASH TREES?

All trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owner.

## WHO CAN REMOVE THE TREE?

Property owners can determine if they wish to do the removal themselves or hire a contractor to do the work.

## WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO REMOVE THE TREE?

Typically, it is best to remove the tree as soon as you see signs of Emerald Ash Borer. The longer you wait, the more brittle the tree may become and the more dangerous it is to remove, resulting in higher costs to remove the tree.

## I HAVE A TREE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY BUT ITS NEAR POWER LINES. CAN THE CITY TAKE DOWN THE TREE?

This is typically not the case, it is still a private property tree and will need to be removed by the property owner. If there are concerns of the tree in overhead lines, please contact City Hall so we can help you determine next steps.

## WHERE CAN WE TAKE THE TREE?

Tree waste can be taken to the City brush dump located on Greenleafon Road.

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## EAB FACTS:

The Emerald Ash Borer adults feed on ash tree leaves.

Larvae are often not killed by insecticides because they live under the bark of the tree.

All three ash species are susceptible to EAB, white ash, green ash and brown or black ash.

Minnesota has over 1 billion ash trees.

EAB eggs and larvae can remain in firewood for more than a year.

DNR estimates Preston to have over 400 ash trees within city limits.

Emerald Ash Borer carries decay fungi that quickly rots branches. The branches can become hazardous to people, pets and property if not removed.



## WILL THE TREE COME BACK TO LIFE?

No, typically once a tree loses 30% of its canopy the tree is unable to be treated.

## I STILL HAVE A GOOD ASH TREE, IS THERE ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE?

Yes, there are treatments that can be applied to deter Emerald Ash Borer. Companies that offer lawn and tree services can often guide you in the right direction.

## DIDN'T THE CITY OF PRESTON GET A GRANT TO REMOVE ASH TREES?

Yes, in 2023 Preston received a DNR grant that was specific to trees on public property, parks and boulevards. This grant did not allow removal of trees on private property. There will not be public funding for removing private trees as MN has over 1 billion ash trees.

## CAN I REPLANT A NEW ASH TREE?

It is recommended to replant native tree options such as: birch, maple, hackberry, oak etc.

## DOES THE CITY OF PRESTON HAVE AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING REMOVAL OF DISEASED TREES?

Yes, City code § 92.02 declares diseased trees as a public nuisance. If the trees are not removed by the property owners, the ordinance does allow the City to abate the issue at the property owners expense.