

Village of Orland Park Emerald Ash Borer



The Village of Orland Park is within the State of Illinois Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Quarantine Zone. The EAB, a destructive beetle from Asia, has been confirmed in all subdivisions within the Village of Orland Park. All native North American ash trees are susceptible to EAB attack and many trees in Orland Park are already dying or dead due to infestation.

The village will be removing all ash trees in public parks and parkways and replacing them with various species while attempting to cause as little impact to residents as possible. Prescribed treatments can sometimes slow the demise of an infested ash tree, but there is currently no effective permanent treatment to save them,



Photo of EAB Infestation

Village of Orland Park Response

Village crews and private contractors will be removing all parkway ash trees in the village, one subdivision at a time based on severity of decline. Ash trees that have been requested for removal will be inspected and, if found to be dangerous, will be removed as quickly as possible.

Because of the large number of ash trees in the village, removal work may continue for up to seven years. Public Works will determine the schedule of work in subdivisions based on the number of unhealthy ash trees and their size. Some areas are more highly affected than others. After your parkway tree has been removed, the stump will be ground down and the area restored within a timely manner. The village plan is to replace the parkway trees during the following planting season. **Please note that it may not be possible to immediately plant a replacement tree.** The number of trees replaced will be in accordance with Village Code.

If you are treating your parkway ash tree with pesticides please notify Public Works at 708-403-6350. If the tree is not a safety hazard, the tree will not be removed if treated. It is the homeowner's responsibility to care for trees on private property.



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Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small (1/2 inch long, 1/8 inch wide) metallic green beetle that has killed millions of ash trees across the Midwest. Native to Asia, the beetle was first discovered the U.S. during the summer of 2002 in southeastern Michigan and has since spread to a number of states, including Illinois. While the insect does not travel great distances, it is believed that the infestation has spread through the transportation of firewood.



Life Cycle

The adult Emerald Ash Borer emerges from ash trees from May to July, leaving a "D" shaped exit hole. Females lay eggs in the bark crevices of the tree. The eggs hatch in seven to ten days. The larvae then bores into the tree and begins feeding on the inner bark and phloem, which creates winding galleries as they feed (as seen on front of this brochure). These winding galleries are located in the circulatory system of the tree and subsequently cut off the flow of water and nutrients, eventually causing death.

Ash tree Identification

Ash trees are the most common tree found in our urban forest due to their hardiness and attractiveness. A comprehensive inventory of the village's trees was conducted in 2010 and found that approximately 8,000 of Orland Park's 24,000 parkway trees are ash.

Ash leaves are arranged oppositely, meaning leaves and branches are located across from each other. The leaves of many other species are arranged alternately.



Most ash leaves have 5-9 leaflets. If there are less than 5 leaflets or more than 9, it is generally not an ash. However, occasionally black ash and blue ash can have up to 11 leaflets.



On mature trees (left), the bark is tight with a distinct pattern of diamond-shaped ridges. On young trees (right), bark is relatively smooth.



Signs of infestation

Ash trees that have been impacted from this pest have many identifiable indicators.

Crown dieback from the top of the tree is the first and most noticeable sign. More die back will be seen from year to year.



As the tree gets more and more stressed, suckers will begin to sprout from the base and trunk of the tree. Noticeable splitting in the bark can occur and woodpeckers may start to feed on the larvae, which will accelerate a tree's decline.



For more information on the EAB visit www.emeraldashborer.info



or www.mortonarb.org

Visit the Village of Orland Park website for continued updates and information on the village's EAB program as it moves forward.

www.orland-park.il.us