

What should I do with my ash tree on my property?

There are 3 management options available:

1) Treat with an insecticide.

This is a great option for a healthy tree with no apparent decline. A Certified Arborist could assist in this decision.

2) Remove and replace.

Contact a certified arborist to remove trees in your yard and appropriately process wood to prevent additional spread of EAB. Replace trees with non-ash species.

3) Do nothing.

If EAB is present, observations show that all ash trees are susceptible to infestation. If you take this option, the odds are that your tree will become infested and die. Be prepared to handle the hazards associated with dead trees such as falling branches.

Additional Considerations:

Trees provide cooling effects (shade) to your home and lawn, which affect your energy and water bills. Trees absorb stormwater and help manage the impact which rain events have on your property. Trees can also improve property values by as much as 10 percent.

Given those factors, it may be more cost-effective to remove and replace small/struggling ash trees rather than pay the cost of ongoing treatment. Trees in poor health are not likely to respond well to regular treatments. Trees that are in decline are unlikely to recover, even if treated. You can protect your tree with insecticide treatments, but keep in mind that treatment is a long-term commitment. As EAB is in Onalaska, it is likely to remain a constant threat to ash trees and treatments may be needed for the life of the tree.

City of Onalaska

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Websites for Resources & Additional Information:

General EAB Information

- <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

Wisconsin EAB Information Source

- <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/index.jsp>

Wisconsin DNR Website

- <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/emeraldashborer.html>

City of Onalaska EAB Information

- <http://www.cityofonalaska.com>
 - ⇒ Select the following tabs:
“Department Services” then
“Planning / Zoning” then
“Urban Forestry”

Date Published: 12/20/2013

Photos obtained from the following sources:
Michigan State University
Morton Arboretum
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/photos>
PA-DCNR - Forestry Archives, Bugwood.org



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) on Private Property



Adult Emerald Ash borer

treesatlantic.org

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Common Questions for Trees on Private Property

I have a tree on my property that appears to be diseased, dying or dead; can the City inspect a tree on my property?

The City does not have the capacity to inspect suspect trees on private property. The City will be utilizing its resources to manage the approx 1,700 trees on City-owned property including on-street boulevards. A boulevard is the green area typically located between the street and the sidewalk that is owned by the City and maintained by property owners as required by municipal ordinances.

To find out if your ash tree is infected you can:

- Contact a Certified Arborist from the International Society of Arboriculture at <http://www.isa-arbor.com/>, who can visit your property, inspect the tree, and help you determine how to manage the tree.
- Visit the City of Onalaska's EAB webpage or visit <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/> for tips on identifying EAB symptoms.

Can I treat ash trees on my property?

Yes, property owners can treat ash trees on their properties. For information about Emerald Ash Borer treatments, visit the City of Onalaska's Emerald Ash Borer webpage, <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/> or read the document, "Is My Ash Tree Worth Treating?" found at <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article.jsp?topicid=19>.

Will the City treat an ash tree on my property or in the boulevard in front of my property?

The City will not be treating ash trees on private property. For ash trees in the City-owned boulevard, the City has not made any determinations on how these trees will be managed; review of this question and a determination is anticipated in Spring 2014.

If I cut down my ash tree, where/how do I dispose of it?

Remember! If you choose to remove your ash tree, you must be aware that Onalaska is in a quarantined area; therefore you must properly dispose of your ash tree, bark, leaves, twigs, stumps, etc. You can drop off your ash tree(s) at the La Crosse County Landfill for a small fee.

Can I keep my cut down Ash tree and use it as firewood?

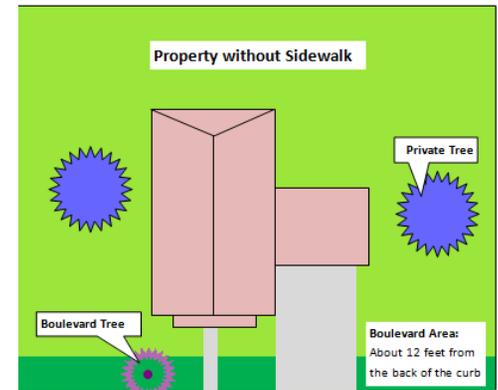
EAB can continue to live in the wood for 2 years after cutting. To avoid spreading EAB, split and leave the wood to age near where you cut the tree for 2 summers. After 2 years of drying, EAB that may have been within the wood will have emerged or died. The aged firewood poses little risk of introducing EAB and you may move it freely within La Crosse County.

If you plan to burn the firewood within the City of Onalaska municipal boundaries, a burn permit is necessary for campfires and may be obtained from the City Clerk's office.

Boulevard Diagrams: Property with a Sidewalk:



Property without a Sidewalk:



*The boulevard is typically measured 12 feet from the back of the curb.