

# NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**



[www.nfs.unl.edu](http://www.nfs.unl.edu)

## Emerald Ash Borer:

### Readiness Planning for Nebraska Communities

Laurie Stepanek, Forest Health Assistant

*Is your  
community  
ready . . .*



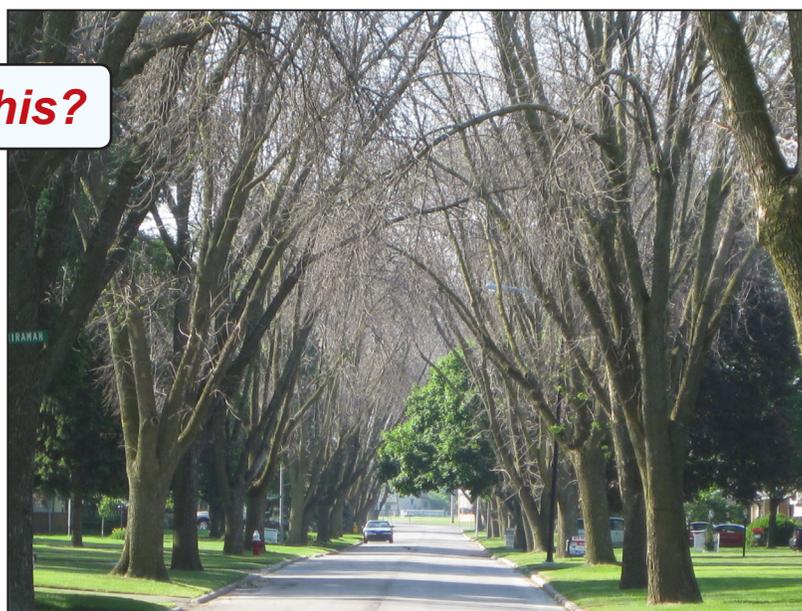
*Ash-lined street in 2006, Toledo, Ohio.*

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a pest of historical significance that will change the face of the landscape in your community.

The Nebraska Forest Service can help you prepare!

*. . . for this?*

*Same street three years later—  
all ash trees dead.*



## Why Prepare Now?

- Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a highly invasive pest that has killed millions of ash trees in North America.
- Historically this pest will rival Dutch elm disease in its impact on community and rural forest resources.
- If you do not plan ahead, your community may be faced with many problems when EAB arrives.

### Exponential Tree Death:

- Overwhelmed with dead trees.
- Huge budget-buster.
- Dead ash are brittle and quickly become hazards.
- Public complaints increase.

### Benefits of Planning Ahead:

- Removal costs can be spread out over many years.
- Replacement trees can become established and functional.
- Public awareness campaigns can be implemented to gain citizen support.
- High-value ash trees can be identified, and plans can be made for protecting these trees.

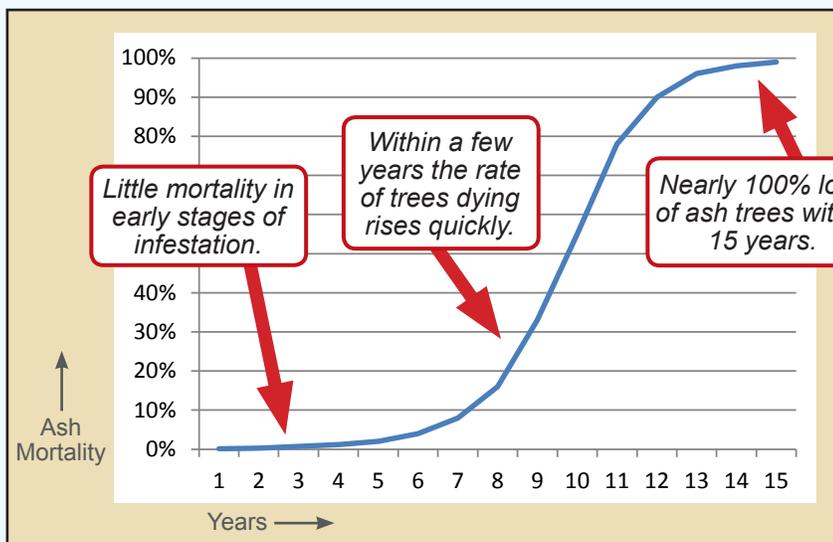
## Some Questions to Ask Yourself

- How many ash trees am I managing? What is their size and health status?
- Can my landscape crew identify a potential EAB infestation?
- Are regulations in place for removal of infested ash trees on public and private property and for planting new trees?
- Do I have a marshalling yard for tree debris? How will infested trees be handled verses non-infested trees?
- What treatment options exist?
- Who will do tree work? Are personnel trained? Do I have the necessary equipment?
- How will tree work be paid for?
- How can I get citizen support?
- Options for working with nearby communities?



## Ash Death Curve

*If left unchecked, EAB can destroy a community's ash tree population in 15 years.*



Adapted from D.A. Herms, Ohio State Univ.

- Ash mortality is generally low early in the infestation, but dead trees begin to overwhelm a community within a few years.
- Depending on the initial population of ash trees, a community may have to deal with dozens or even hundreds of dead trees **per year** at the height of an EAB infestation.
- EAB may go undetected for several years leaving less time to prepare for extensive tree loss.

## Assistance

Nebraska Forest Service personnel can provide guidance to your community in planning for and dealing with EAB.

### Groups we work with include:

- ▶ city employees
- ▶ tree boards
- ▶ college campuses



### How we can help:

#### ▶ Preparedness Planning

Assist with a survey of public ash trees, discuss landscape issues, and provide guidance in developing an EAB management plan for your community.

#### ▶ Pest Control Information

Diagnose ash tree problems and discuss control options for EAB.

#### ▶ Public Awareness

Work with your community to educate the public and gain citizen support.

#### ▶ Informational Workshops

Help conduct workshops to inform and educate the public or train employees on EAB and related issues.

## Nebraska Forest Service

### Forest Health Specialists

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### Community Forestry Specialists

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## Informational Materials Available for Community Distribution

Free brochures are available from the Nebraska Forest Service. Online versions are available at: [nfs.unl.edu/EAB](http://nfs.unl.edu/EAB)



### EAB and Related Brochures:

#### EAB: Frequently Asked Questions (FH18-2012)

- ▶ *Basic Q&A on EAB.*

#### EAB: Guidelines for Nebraska Homeowners (FH17-2012)

- ▶ *Helps homeowners evaluate their ash trees and make decisions about treatments and removals.*

#### EAB: Treatment Options (FH13-2012)

- ▶ *Side-by-side comparison of treatment options for both professionals and homeowners.*

#### Decline in Ash Trees: Borers and Bark Beetles (FH20-2014)

- ▶ *Many insects besides EAB attack ash trees. Provides plenty of pictures to help with diagnosis.*

#### Decline in Ash Trees: Diseases and Environmental Stresses (FH21-2014)

- ▶ *Companion brochure to "Decline in Ash Trees: Borers and Bark Beetles." EAB isn't the only cause for ash decline!*

#### EAB: Readiness Planning for Nebraska Communities (FH22-2014)

- ▶ *Basic guide to the importance of planning for EAB and what the Nebraska Forest Service can do to help your community.*

#### To order:

402-472-5503 • [lstepanek2@unl.edu](mailto:lstepanek2@unl.edu)

Online versions are available at the Nebraska Forest Service EAB website:

[nfs.unl.edu/EAB](http://nfs.unl.edu/EAB)

## Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

### Some Facts:

- ✓ Exotic, invasive metallic green beetle from Asia.
- ✓ Kills trees by tunneling beneath the bark.
- ✓ Easily transported to new areas in infested firewood.
- ✓ All North American species of ash are susceptible including green, white, black, and blue ash and their cultivars such as:

Marshall's Seedless  
Patmore  
Bergeson  
Summit

Autumn Purple  
Autumn Applause  
Fall Gold  
True Blue



Photo credits:

Page one ash trees: D. Herms, Ohio State University

Page two marshalling yard: D. Cappaert, Michigan State University

Page four EAB adult and larva: D. Cappaert, Michigan State University

Page four dead trees: City of Upper Arlington, Ohio