



Metro Tree Advisory Committee Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Advisory

This spring is the time to start your EAB management plan
and the last best time to treat and save your mature ash trees.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Nashville has many beautiful native ash trees in parks, on school grounds, along city streets and in private yards. Sadly, none of these ash trees are immune to the effects of the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect pest, rapidly spreading across Middle Tennessee. With an estimate of 6% of Nashville's tree canopy being ash, **Spring 2020**, is the time for Nashvillians to make a decision on how to manage their ash trees.

Managing the Emerald Ash Borer outbreak includes three options: **Treat your tree**, **Let it die** or **Remove it**. Early spring is the time to select what is right for your tree. The longer a management plan is delayed, the more it will cost.

Treat it: The best effective insecticide method is injection treatments every two years for the remaining healthy life of the tree. This option is best for medium to larger trees and should be applied as the leaves appear by a licensed professional. It's best to treat your tree before it is infested to help build resistance. Once there is more than 30% dieback of the crown, treatment may not be effective. **If this is your management option, treatment should start now, as the trees are coming out of winter dormancy and will actively take up chemical treatments.**

Let it die: If the tree is in the woods or on open area where its fall would not block access or cause physical or property damage, you can let it die naturally in place and decompose.

Remove it: You can be proactive and have your tree cut down before it dies. If it not accessible by a bucket truck, then it needs to be cut down before it becomes too brittle to climb. Infested ash trees can present a safety concern.

Blue Dots on Ash Trees/Blue Blazes Signs: There is an inventory in progress to find ash and other hazardous trees on public land. If one of these trees could potentially fall and cause damage, it is being marked with a blue dot and evaluations are being made for their removal.

Reference Information

Metro EAB website: trees.nashville.gov

Managing the Emerald Ash Borer Epidemic in Nashville Brochure: Website or call 311 or 615-862-5000

Schedule a free EAB speaker for your community, work or worship locations: Register on website or contact Jennifer Smith at Jennifer.smith3@nashville.gov or 615-862-8708.

The EAB Speaker's Bureau program is presented by the **Metro Tree Advisory Committee**. The presentation will review how to identify ash trees, management options, tree owner's responsibility, and how to hire an arborist.

The Committee's mission, working closely with city departments and non-profit partners, is to **recommend** tree policies, **educate** the community about the benefits of trees and proper tree planting and care, and **promote** tree planting and preservation.

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