

Inoculating your Ash Trees for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB): Planning ahead (NOW!) for treatment

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a devastating pest, whose larvae *kill ash trees* by tunneling under the bark, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. EAB is in our community and is 100% fatal to untreated ash trees.

What can homeowners do about ash trees on their property?

- **Do nothing, let the trees succumb to EAB.**

EAB typically takes 3 or more growing seasons to kill an ash tree, creating potential hazards.

Consider having it removed by a professional tree service and replace it with a native. Waiting to remove your tree could end up costing more because the dead trees become brittle and dangerous to remove.

Watch a video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1mm2K6sCBI>

- **Treatment**

High-value landscape trees greater than 6 inches in diameter can be treated with a systemic insecticide, injected into the tree by a professional pesticide applicator. Treatment must be repeated every 2-3 years throughout the life of the tree. Sprayed and poured insecticides are not as effective and can drift or leach, negatively affecting surrounding areas. Lightly infested trees (less than 30 percent canopy decline) can recover if treated. Trees suffering more than 30 percent canopy decline are poor candidates for treatment.

The Marine City Council and Urban Forest Advisory Committee are working with Rainbow Tree Service to get a volume discount on treatment. If Marine can guarantee 20-40 ash trees of decent size, Rainbow can treat the trees for \$6.70 per diameter inch. At this rate, an **average-sized, 16" diameter ash tree would cost \$107 for two seasons of protection.** If we could get 40-100 trees, they can reduce the price to \$6.00 per inch.




Eligible ash tree(s) include those:

- In your front yard, side yard, backyard, and/or
- In the public right-of-way (ROW) in front or on side of your property. (You would be sponsoring a public tree).

How it works:

1. Use contact information below to schedule tree measurement **by JULY 30.**
2. Urban Forest volunteers will measure your tree(s) to provide you an estimate.
3. After you commit to treatment, the city will prebill you once for this two-year treatment program.
4. The treatment will take place in late August or September 2022.

Tips to Identify Ash Trees

	Has branches that grow directly across from one another.		Has compound leaves (a group of leaflets joined by a stalk to a woody stem).		Has five to many leaflets with smooth or finely toothed margins.
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To have your ash tree(s) measured for an estimate, contact:

- Forest Advisory Committee Chair, at peterjfostermpl@gmail.com or (612) 232-2199
- or City Councilperson Wendy Ward at (651) 301-0633

About the treatment

- Treatment provides 100% protection from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) for trees not yet affected.
- For EAB-infested ash tree with less than 30% crown loss, inoculation eliminates the infestation, saving the tree.
- The active ingredient in the insecticide used to control is emamectin benzoate.

Is it safe?

Google “FAQ side effects EAB insecticide” to read, “**Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Potential Side Effects of Systemic Insecticides Used to Control Emerald Ash Borer.**”

Key takeaways from the document:

- Injection reduces hazards such as drift (compared to sprays) and has less impact on beneficial insects.
- Trunk-injected insecticides pose little risk to ground and surface water.
- It is highly unlikely that bees would be exposed. Ash trees are wind-pollinated and are not a nectar source for bees.
- It is highly unlikely treatment would harm woodpeckers. Woodpeckers feed on live, mature EAB larvae. They do not feed on dead, desiccated, larvae. Insecticide concentrations in treated trees are far below the levels known to be toxic to birds.
- Drilling does not harm the tree. New, healthy wood grows over the injection sites.

Watch a video about how trees are treated at: <https://youtu.be/O-gxORJgrGQ>