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Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan

Informational Flyer

Hyde Park Village & Town

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a non-native invasive insect that **has killed millions of ash trees throughout the United States and Canada.** To date, this insect has not been found in Vermont, however isolated populations of the insect have been found in New York, Quebec, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. At this point it is highly likely that populations of the insect already exist within Vermont, but have been yet to be identified.

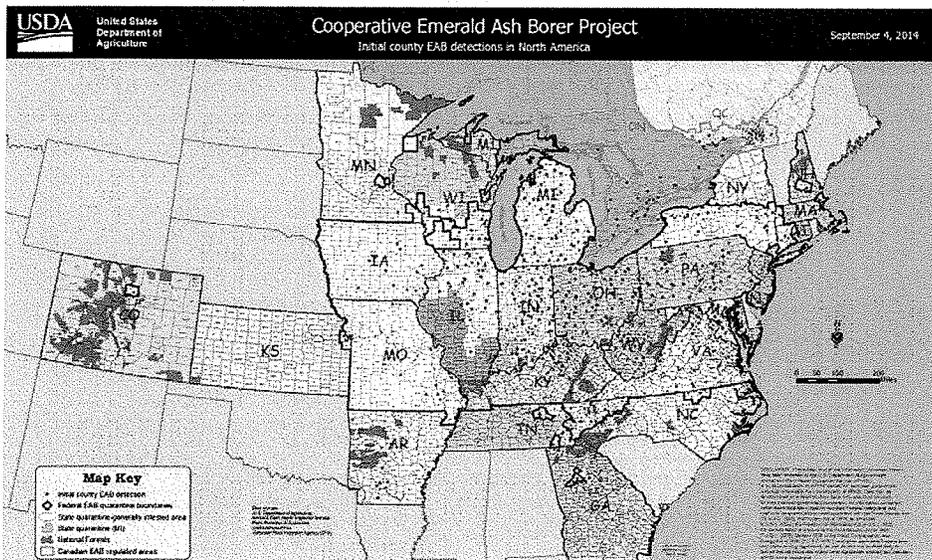


Once the insect establishes a population within a region, it spreads from tree to tree causing nearly 100% mortality among the host trees. EAB specifically targets ash trees, including all three Vermont species: white ash (*Fraxinus Americana*), green ash (*Fraxinus pensylvanica*) and black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*). In Hyde Park, ash trees can be found growing along the public Right of

Ash bark has ridges with a very unique diamond shaped pattern. It is easily mistaken for boxelder which grows in lowland areas and along river banks. So take a good look when driving along rivers.

Ways and even planted as public shade trees or as ornamentals in residential areas. Removal of hundreds of hazard trees at one time is a costly financial burden for the town of Hyde Park, however this burden can be avoided with proper planning.

The town's February 2015 draft Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan incorporates the most current



Current EAB populations in North America

available information from the University of Vermont and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, to identify a process for the Town and Village of Hyde Park to prepare in advance for the impact of EAB. A Hyde Park Ash Tree Inventory was completed in 2014 by the town tree warden, county foresters and students from Lamoille Union High School. This advance planning is designed to provide a plan to address the public safety concerns and minimize the impact to the town budget by inventorying the ash on the most traveled town roads in Hyde Park, and provides a plan to preemptively remove the most hazardous roadside ash over a period of ten years. This plan can be changed if research provides a means to effectively control EAB.

Since roadside ash are the most vulnerable trees to EAB (as EAB is primarily spread by people who travel along roads) and safety is the primary focus along road corridors, the plan being considered includes removal of some of these trees along the roadsides before they become potential safety hazards. Acting before the trees die allows time for the town to spread the costs of the removal of trees over multiple years. Outside of the road corridors, it is suggested that ash trees are maintained for ecological reasons. The very best way to prevent EAB from entering Hyde Park is to not bring it here. EAB is **primarily spread through the movement of firewood**. The larval stage of the insect is the damaging agent, and this stage remains under the bark of ash for most of the year. If firewood is moved from an infected area, there is a good chance some larvae will move with the wood and an adult will emerge in the spring, mate, lay eggs in living trees and establish a new population in our community. **So the best thing to do is to not move firewood and help remind others to do the same.**



There are numerous metallic green insects common to the northeast that could easily be confused with EAB, however when in doubt contact the town office who can assist in connecting you with a trained First Detector. Since EAB attacks only ash trees, monitoring for its presence means knowing how to identify ash. The best signs of an EAB outbreak are woodpeckers. If you see ash trees with significant woodpecker activity **notify the town office or the County Forester as soon as possible.**

The Town's EAB Readiness Plan is subject to periodic revision as new information about EAB is available and as EAB moves across the state. The Town will prioritize the treatment and removal of public ash trees by using data from the tree inventory. For the Village and Town of Hyde Park, a **preemptive management strategy** is recommended. Prior to the implementation of the plan a public hearing will be held. If you have any comments or concerns on the EAB Preparedness Plan, please contact the town office. If you observe this invasive species or see evidence of ash tree deterioration, please call the town office or County Forester. The Lamoille County Forester may be reached by calling 802-888-5733.

The draft EAB Preparedness Plan is posted at www.hydeparkvt.com under "Highway" and available at the Town Clerk's Office, 344 Route 15 W, Hyde Park, VT or by calling 802-888-2300 x2. Ver01/04

