EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)

ABOUT EAB

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) lays eggs in the crevices in the bark of Ash trees. These hatch to larvae that feed just under the bark, leaving "S" shaped galleries (tunnels). Tree symptoms include dieback in the top third of the tree as well as new growth (suckers) at the base of the trunk and in crotches. These symptoms can indicate damage from other types of borers as well, so it is important to identify the larvae and galleries. Contact local extension for more information.

CURRENT RISKS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Emerald Ash Borer has been present in Kansas City since 2013. Recently it has also been confirmed in Omaha, Nebraska and Boulder, Colorado. In 2015 it was confirmed at Perry Lake in Jefferson County Kansas and has also been found in Douglas, Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte Counties. In 2014 the government released a parasitic wasp to try to control the EAB populations. This may help slow the spread of the population but will not eliminate the threat.

EAB in the area is not a death sentence for ash trees because we can treat preventatively (like a vaccine) as well as infestations that are 1-3 years old. Keep in mind that most dieback is not seen until 7-8 years after EAB is present, so early detection is key.

We recommend treating White Ash trees as they have the best fall color and are strong trees. Green Ash trees should be treated in situations where it is an important specimen tree or there are few other trees around. These trees will need to continue to be treated so long as the pest is around.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

Imidacloprid and Dinotefuran are part of the neonicotinoid family of insecticides. Research does not support that they are harmful to bees when applied according to label directions. Always read and follow label instructions when applying chemicals.

1. **Good:** Tree & Shrub Systemic Drench **Active Ingredient**: Imidacloprid
   Application: Yearly in Spring is best. Every other year if pest pressure is low.
   Risks: Possible canopy dieback from EAB even if treated: 20-30%
   Benefits: Low price point. Can be applied by customer.
   Price: Approx. $0.20 per inch diameter to self-apply. (2016 Pricing)
   Price: $2 per inch diameter to have us apply plus travel. (2016 Pricing)

2. **Better**: Safari & Pentra-Bark Spray **Active Ingredient**: Dinotefuran
   Application: Yearly by certified professional.
   Risks: Possible canopy dieback from EAB even if treated: 15-20%. High risk to applicator.
   Benefits: Better distribution & coverage throughout tree. Faster uptake.
   Price: $7 per inch diameter per year plus travel. (2016 Pricing)

3. **Best**: Boxer Injection **Active Ingredient:** Emamectin Benzoate
   Application: Every 2 years by certified professional.
   Risks: Possible canopy dieback if treated is barely noticeable: 5-10%. Injection wound is minor.
   Benefits: Best control. Most reliable. Fewer treatments needed (apply every other year).
   Price for Trees 0-20" DBH: $10 per inch diameter every other year plus travel. (2016 Pricing)
   Price for Trees 20"+ DBH: $12 per inch diameter every other year plus travel. (2016 Pricing)