



News Release
For Immediate Release
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Emerald Ash Borer Discovered in St. Michael

St. Michael, Minn. – St. Michael encourages residents to look for signs of EAB and take preventative measures - www.stmichaelmn.gov/eab.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) recently confirmed emerald ash borer (EAB) has been discovered in the City of St. Michael.

Emerald ash borer is an invasive insect that kills ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. Ash were very popular trees until the mid-2000s so a significant number of homes are anticipated to be affected.

Residents should be proactive when managing the ash trees in their yards. Ash trees can be treated with an insecticide to prevent emerald ash borer infestation. To be effective, treatments must be repeated every two to three years for the entire life of the tree, depending on the label instructions. If you are not interested in or cannot afford to treat your ash tree, residents should consider having it removed now by a professional tree care company and replant with a tree that is right for the St. Michael area.

The City will be seeking proposals from tree care companies to treat a significant number of the ash trees in public parks and along Frankfort Parkway. As part of this process, the City will be securing residents a reduced rate for private tree treatments and will communicate this information by early spring.

Waiting to remove your tree(s) once it has become heavily infested or dead will be more expensive because brittle ash trees are dangerous to cut down.

There are several things residents should look for when checking for emerald ash borer. Visit www.stmichaelmn.gov/eab for a video and visuals to help identify EAB.

- **Be sure you've identified an ash tree.** This is an important first step since EAB only feeds on ash trees. Ash have opposite branching – meaning branches come off the trunk directly across from each other. On older trees, the bark is in a tight, diamond-shaped pattern. Younger trees have a relatively smooth bark.

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- **Look for woodpecker damage.** Woodpeckers like EAB larvae and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of EAB.
- **Check for bark cracks.** EAB larvae tunneling under the bark can cause the bark to split open, revealing the larval (S-shaped) tunnels underneath.
- **Contact a professional.** If you feel your ash tree may be infested with EAB, contact a tree care professional or the MDA at reportapest@state.mn.us or 888-545-6684.

There are three easy steps residents can take to keep EAB from spreading:

- Don't transport firewood. Buy firewood locally from approved vendors, and burn it where you buy it;
- Be aware of the quarantine restrictions on movement of products such as ash trees, wood chips, and firewood; and,
- Watch your ash trees for infestation. If you think your ash tree is infested, go to <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab-info-homeowners> for resources on identifying EAB, how to hire tree care professionals, and insecticide options for protecting your ash tree.

For more information on emerald ash borer, go to www.stmichaelmn.gov/eab or www.mda.state.mn.us/eab.