

Emerald Ash Borer Found in Rolling Meadows

Ash trees throughout the City are at risk, following confirmation in February that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has arrived in Rolling Meadows. The non-native beetle, small and shiny green in appearance, is responsible for the deaths of more than 20 million ash trees in 14 states. Beetle larvae feed on an ash tree's outer sapwood, which cuts off the flow of water to the top of the tree and results in its death.

EAB has placed the City's ash trees, which make up roughly 25% of the total tree population, in considerable danger. "We cannot accurately determine a timeframe, but it is possible that all City-owned ash trees will have to be cut down," explains City Forester Jim McFeggan. "That will have a major effect on the makeup of our urban forest over the next several years."

The City's Forestry Department plans to remove infested trees as they are confirmed and dispose of the resulting debris in accordance with state and federal regulations.

Also at risk are ash trees on private property, park lands and wooded lots. Homeowners are urged to identify ash trees on their properties and watch for damage to upper branches, unusual woodpecker damage or bark splits, which usually indicate the EAB's presence. Residents who believe their ash trees have been infested with the Emerald Ash Borer should contact the Public Works Department at 847-963-0500. Informational brochures on the Emerald Ash Borer are available at the Rolling Meadows Public Works Department, 3900 Berdnick Street. In addition, residents will find a wealth of EAB information online at:

www.cityrm.org

www.emeraldashborer.info

www.IllinoisEAB.com

www.agr.state.il.us

www.aphis.usda.gov

www.mortonarb.org