

Dear Lake City Resident:

You are receiving this notice as a resident of Lake City, MN. There is no specific action that needs to be taken at this time. Further resources regarding the information below can be found through links provided at the end of this letter.

In January 2017 Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was detected in the city limits of Lake City. EAB is an exotic beetle native to Asia that was discovered in Michigan in 2002. Adult beetles feed on Ash foliage while larvae feed on the inner bark. This inner damage disrupts the ability for the tree to take on water and nutrients, eventually killing the tree in 3 to 6 years. There are several insects incorrectly identified as EAB. Assistance with proper identification can be found in the Insect Guide link.

The City has been taking steps over the past several years in anticipation of the arrival of EAB. Ash trees have been removed and replaced in parks and boulevards that are in poor condition or adjacent to street projects. The City also received a \$23,000 grant to increase tree diversity throughout the community over a two year period. However, there are still over 650 Ash trees in our inventory. **This does not include trees located on private property.**

Upon detection of EAB in Wabasha County, a quarantine area was defined that included all of Lake City and its compost site. Because cut wood is often hard to identify, no species of hardwoods are allowed to leave the quarantined area.

Ash trees can be treated with chemicals to protect them from EAB. These treatments are effective when applied properly and repeated as prescribed. Due to the large number of Ash trees in its inventory, the City does not intend to treat trees located on boulevards or in parks. All treatment methods within the City must be performed by a certified applicator.

Presence of EAB in Ash trees is most easily seen with woodpecker damage. This damage is typically shallow as the insect does not bore deep into the tree. Other signs are bark splits and "S" shaped galleries just under the bark. While tree damage can be fairly obvious, the siting of adult beetles is rare. City staff can assist property owners in identifying EAB damage.

An EAB survey was conducted by staff from both the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the City of Lake City on Thursday, February 9, 2017 with infested trees being identified in 3 locations. The Department of Ag recommends removal of all infested trees plus those Ash trees in the immediate area to create a buffer. This has shown to slow the spread of EAB, allowing the City and residents more time to remove and properly handle Ash trees in the community.

Tree removals in the 3 identified locations will begin immediately and will cease by May 1, 2017 while the insect is dormant (October 1 to May 1). Adjacent property owners will be notified when boulevard trees are scheduled for removal. Residents are responsible for removal of Ash trees on private property. All woody material can be disposed of at the City's compost site. Removals will resume on October 1, 2017 as needed. Restoration of boulevards, including stump removal and tree replacements, will be completed by the City or a contractor working on behalf of the City.

All informational links and additional resources on Emerald Ash Borer can be found on the City's website at www.ci.lake-city.mn.us. City staff can be contacted at 651-448-8145 or by email at the following addresses:

- Scott Jensen – sjensen@ci.lake-city.mn.us
- Bruce Wallerich – bwallerich@ci.lake-city.mn.us
- Melissa Krier – mkrier@ci.lake-city.mn.us

Direct links to resources:

Insect Guide -

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/emerald-Ash-borer/docs/M1242-9.pdf>

Ash Tree Identification -

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/~media/Files/plants/eab/Ashtreeid.pdf>

Homeowner's Guide to Insecticide -

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/~media/Files/plants/eab/eabtreatmentguide2.Ashx>

Does My Tree Have EAB? -

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/~media/Files/plants/eab/eab-treeshaveit.pdf>