



TOWN MEETING TALKING POINTS ON EMERALD ASH BORER

Emerald ash borer is an invasive forest pest that feeds on and eventually kills all species of ash.

- It has devastated ash trees in 35 states and 5 Canadian provinces, and economic impact has been greater than that of any other invasive forest pest in North America.
- The larvae will kill almost 100% of ash trees within 3 to 5 years of infesting the tree.
- When ash trees die, they become very brittle and break in unpredictable ways, endangering people and property
- Ash mortality can be prevented by treating ash trees with insecticides, but it is a long-term commitment.

Emerald ash borer is now in Vermont.

- It was found in Orange County in 2018 and is now confirmed in eight counties in Vermont.

Communities need to be prepared.

- Municipalities are responsible for hazard trees in their right-of ways.
- Dead and dying ash on roads and town lands will cause a risk to people and property.
- It is important for municipalities to plan ahead for this pest so that they are not caught unprepared.
- Ignoring the pest and dealing with trees as they die is much more expensive than creating a management plan and being pro-active.

Here's what we have done so far (or what we can do).

Adjust your comments for your community, but below are some suggestions you can mention.

- Inventory ash trees within the town's right-of-way and on town property.
- Decide which, if any, public trees we want to protect through treatment.
- Develop a management plan, including a budget for removals and treatment, and identifying a disposal site for ash wood (if needed).

For more information

You can find more information about emerald ash borer and resources for municipalities at:

vtcommunityforestry.org