

How is the City of Vergennes preparing for The Emerald Ash Borer and Ash Tree Management?

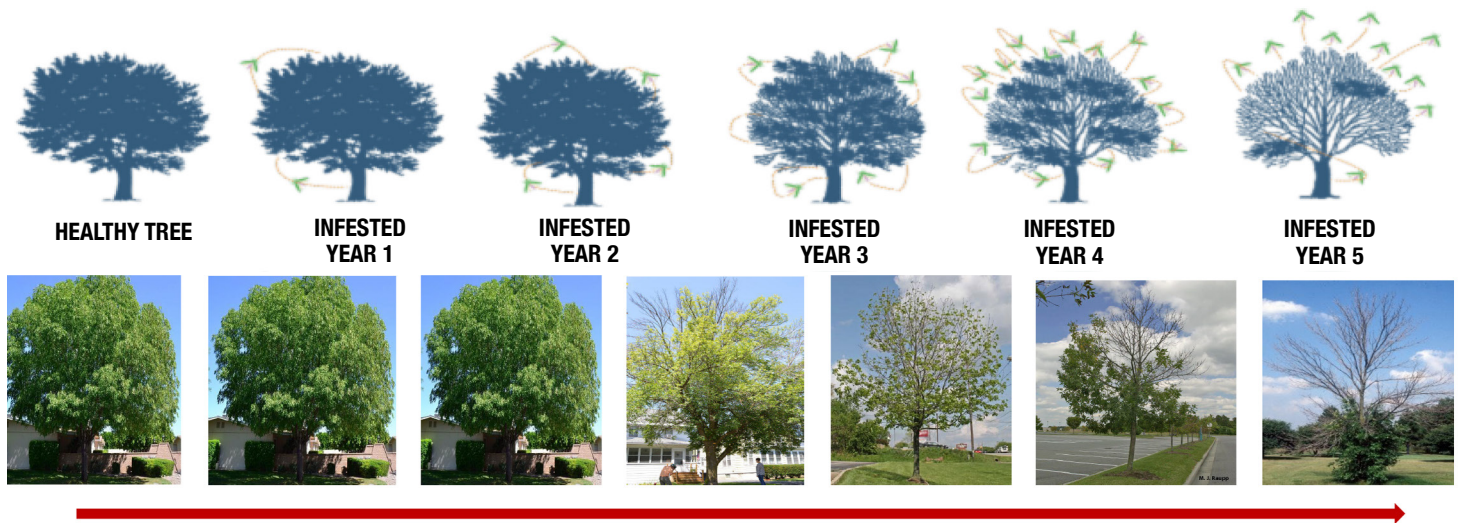
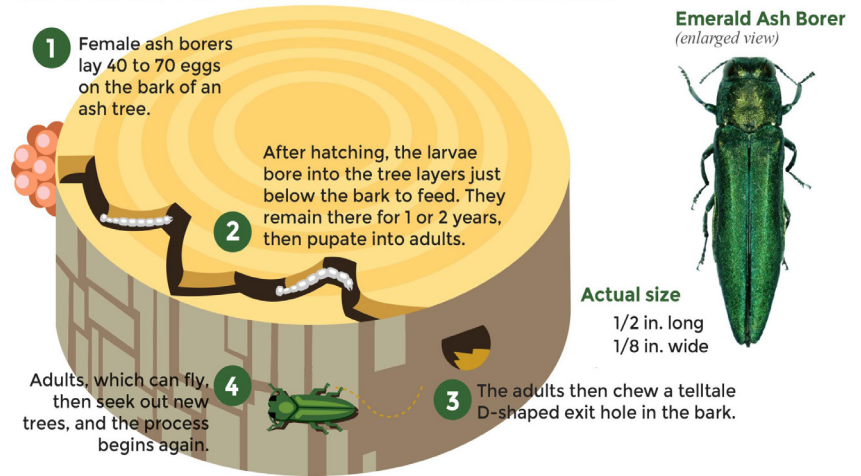
What is the Emerald Ash Borer?

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle that feeds on all species of ash trees, killing them. Infestations of the EAB has been identified in most counties of Vermont, including nearby Ferrisburgh, Bristol and Middlebury. For information on Emerald Ash Borer in Vermont: vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont.

How long does it take for an infested ash tree to die?

Infested trees die within three to five years. It is predicted that most ash trees in our City will become infested and eventually die.

LIFE CYCLE OF THE EMERALD ASH BORER



Why should I care if ash trees in my neighborhood get infested with EAB?

Dead and dying trees can threaten public safety, increase town expenses, and decrease property values. Once fully infested, trees become like Styrofoam in their structure and cannot be climbed or limbed to remove. Expensive equipment and specialists have to be brought in to remove trees at a greater cost to tax payers. Removing trees while they are still healthy is safer, easier and less expensive.

Who is responsible for removing ash trees?

To ensure public safety the City will bear the responsibility and costs of removing ash trees in the *public right-of-way (ROW)*. Currently the City has identified 114 ash trees in the ROW. Many of the smaller trees can be removed by our City Public Works crew, but outside vendors will be contracted to remove larger trees at more complicated sites.

When will ash trees near my house be removed?

Ash trees in the City ROW are being marked with orange survey tape. Trees in poor condition and smaller trees will be removed first. Larger trees will be removed as the City budget allows.

When will new replacement trees to be planted?

Some neighborhoods such as Adele Drive and Bowman Road will be highly effected by ash tree removal. The City will start planting new replacement trees Spring and Fall 2024. Dig Safe will be marking all utilities so planting can proceed safely.

The good news . . .

With special funds through the USDA Forest Service's National Urban & Community Forestry Program and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the City has received a grant to increase and maintain a healthy urban tree canopy and access to nature. This grant can be used to *remove* ash trees within the City ROW and *plant* replacement trees.

What tree species will replace our ash trees?

All new trees will be selected from the Vermont Tree Selection Guide, vtcommunityforestry.org/tree-care/tree-selection-planting. Special attention will be given to increasing species diversity, climate change tolerance and soil conditions.

What will the City do with the ash tree wood when trees are cut?

When possible ash wood from felled trees will be made available to the public. The City will announce these opportunities. Removed wood must follow the VT "Slow the Spread guidelines" vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont/slow-spread-of-eab.



Is there an alternative to removing a healthy, mature ash tree?

Nobody wants a beautiful tree removed from their neighborhood. When EAB becomes present in a tree there are insecticides that can be injected into the tree trunk, every two or three years, for the life of the tree. Trees must be treated by a certified tree service or arborist who has a commercial pesticide applicators category 3A license. Citizens can contract directly with a tree service. Costs will vary with tree size. The City's grant money cannot be used to treat trees. If you are interested in treating a tree in your neighborhood please contact the City so the tree can be registered. For more information on EAB insecticide treatment: <https://vtcommunityforestry.org/municipal-assistance/emerald-ash-borer-management/insecticide-treatment-resources>.