

Colerain Township EAB Management Plan

Introduction

Emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, is a half inch long, exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. It was found in Lucas County Ohio in February of 2003. Since then it has been found in 26 other Ohio counties as far south as Warren County; all of these counties are under an ash wood quarantine. ***As of January 16, 2007, EAB has not been found in Hamilton County.***

EAB only attacks ash trees. Approximately 10% of Ohio trees are ashes. Millions of ash trees in Michigan and Ohio have been killed and, if EAB is not contained, the ash tree may disappear in Ohio. To date, no pesticide has proven 100% effective against the beetle and experts do not recommend treating trees at this time.

There is no timetable for when EAB will arrive in Hamilton County. It could take many years if the current quarantines prove effective. However, we could see infestations as early as this year if infested ash trees, logs, firewood or branches are moved into our area.

To responsibly manage public safety and fiscal planning, Colerain Township must prepare for and manage the damage to its ash trees on public right of ways, parks, public property, and trees on private property. The following elements of the Colerain Township EAB management plan are subject to periodic review and revision as new information about the Emerald Ash Borer becomes available. This plan may change to remain compliant with state or federal policies.

Trees in Public Right-of-Ways

In January 2007 The Township completed an inventory of all ash trees in public right-of-ways documenting location, size and general health of the trees. There are approximately 208 ash trees in Colerain Township right-of-ways and public property. Half of these trees are 46 inches in diameter or larger. About 26% (54) of the inventoried trees are dead, dying or in poor condition, 6% (12) are in fair condition and 68 % (142) are in good condition. Only 6 trees are in need of immediate attention.

- The Township will develop a timetable for removing ash trees in public right-of-ways.
- Trees in dying and poor condition will be removed first.
- 47 of the 54 trees in dying or poor condition are presently in conflict with wires maintained by Duke Energy. The Township will seek assistance from Duke in removing, instead of trimming, these trees.
- Residents will be notified prior to any planned action.

Park Trees and Historical Cemetery Trees

- There is no current inventory of ash trees in Township parks and maintained historical cemeteries.
- The Township will inventory and evaluate ash trees in its parks and historical cemeteries.
- Trees posing a hazard to public safety will be felled and left to decompose in the woods. Trees not posing a threat will not be removed from their natural setting.
- The Parks and Services department will manage tree replacement where necessary and manage any encroachment by invasive or non-native plants.

Trees on Private Property

- Colerain Township encourages residents to monitor the health of their ash trees and to seek information about EAB in Colerain Township through the website.
- Once an ash tree is infested it will die within three to five years. Once the tree is dead it quickly becomes brittle and poses a hazard to surrounding property and residents. It is more costly to remove the tree when it is dead.
- It is up to each resident to evaluate the costs and benefits of chemically treating their trees.

The Colerain Township Parks and Services Department is the lead department responsible for implementation of this plan. The Parks and Services Department will work with other departments and agencies as needed and will provide public information and education regarding EAB on the Colerain Township website and other forums as necessary.

The Township will develop a plan for disposing the removed trees. This plan will be compliant with Ohio and US Department of Agriculture regulations.

Colerain Township will not plant ash trees until the threat of EAB has been eliminated and strongly encourages residents to refrain from purchasing and planting ash trees. The Township also requests that residents know the county of origin before purchasing firewood. The Township reminds residents that the states of Ohio and Indiana are under federal quarantines prohibiting the movement of ash wood outside those states.