

EAB Stories and Lessons Learned—

Learning and Sharing How Communities Are Responding to Emerald Ash Borer



Part II: Detection

“The first 1-2 years, emerald ash borer will be in the crowns and you won’t notice it as easily unless you look up there; after 3-4 years it will infest the tree bole and mortality explodes,” shares Craig Schaar, Assistant City Forester in Toledo, Ohio. Toledo has had good success in locating EAB in larger/older ash trees (diameters >18 inches) while younger trees are more difficult because they lack deep bark furrows for laying eggs. From his experience, Craig stresses how important it is to get up into the crown of the tree to look for EAB. “Check the four- to six-inch-diameter branches. Look by the branch collar. Find the exit holes and bark splitting in the crowns. Look for it at festival sites, travel corridors, new construction areas, nurseries, wood-use shops, rivers, sawmills.” Craig’s overall message to us is that early detection is essential and EAB can be anywhere. “We have found it cheaper to remove live trees than dead trees,” he says, emphasizing the importance of early detection. Looking up in the canopy is something we also heard from the Ohio DNR. They made sure to send the following message: “Before any

ash is pruned in infested areas, it first needs to be inspected in the upper canopy.” They found that even ash reduction programs helped to detect new infestations.

Lima, Ohio, shares a different story. This city took a wait-and-see approach. They suspect EAB had been there 3-5 years prior to detection. The city lacked funding to deal with its impact and city leaders took a reactionary approach. When they realized there is no “magic bullet” to face EAB their first step was an ash inventory. They have no plans yet for how to deal with tree cutting, removal and disposal.

Delimiting is no longer an option when EAB is found in infested areas of Ohio – the Department of Agriculture simply quarantines the entire county. As a final comment from a roundtable discussion with Ohio communities of various sizes, “They don’t have the manpower to do any more delimiting.”

Special Considerations:

- Look everywhere for EAB – festival sites, travel corridors, new construction areas, nurseries, wood-use shops, rivers, sawmills.
- Be proactive – inspect the tree’s upper canopy, the best place to look for EAB.
- Early detection helps save money on removals.

Delimitation efforts can overwhelm manpower when EAB is detected.

For a more detailed version of this story as well as other communities’ stories, visit *Lessons Shared – Journal Entries 9, 10 & 11*.

EAB has been found in Wisconsin. For information on the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection’s (DATCP’s) survey program, please visit <http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>.

For resources to help your community with the detection of EAB, visit the Emerald Ash Borer Toolkit link at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/eab/> (Chapter 6 – Detection)

The City of Milwaukee uses an informal approach to survey for EAB. They present material on EAB signs, symptoms and identification to arborist crews, and have them look for signs of EAB during their regular pruning cycle. These crews are especially vigilant when in the upper canopy of ash trees. Any suspect trees are double-checked by a supervisor before they are forwarded on to DATCP. For more information, contact Ian Brown, Milwaukee DPW Technical Services Supervisor, (414) 286-8233, ian.brown@milwaukee.gov.

Please share what your community is doing to prepare for EAB with others. Send ideas to Olivia Witthun, Urban Forestry Assistant, olivia.witthun@wi.gov.

*The second entry of EAB Stories and Lessons Learned was compiled by
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