

WAA EAB Committee Report

Introduction:

The Wisconsin Arborist Association (WAA) has a stated mission: “To improve the understanding of trees and the practice of arboriculture, and promote high ethical and professional standards.” The coming problems with emerald ash borer (EAB) will put stress on all areas of that mission.

A WAA committee has examined the various problems created by EAB along with what positions and actions the WAA should take. Throughout our work, there were two overriding concerns:

- 1.) More research is necessary now. Our knowledge base of EAB is inadequate.
- 2.) There will be a need for extensive replanting. It will be very important to stress greater variety and proper planting techniques.

Even with all of the problems created by EAB there are many opportunities. It is important that we use this as a time to improve connections throughout the green industry and into politics.

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1.) Research:

- More emphasis and money needs to go into research.
 - desired outcomes:
 - 1.) a more reliable means of trapping to be able to detect EAB at low levels
 - 2.) more control options (especially something for widespread control or stopping EAB)
 - We cannot stress importance of research enough.
 - The WAA President should immediately request that the membership contact their two Senators and their House Representative and ask them to provide \$3 million to the USDA Forest Service for EAB research.

2.) Planting/Species Diversity:

- Very important
- a.) Diversity of future plantings is critical.
 - Use Dr. Laura’s link to the recommended replacements.
 - 20-10-5-5 rule for diversity (no more than: 20% of one family, 10% of genus, 5% of species and no more than 5% of one variety).
- b.) With all of the planting that will be taking place, proper planting techniques will be even more important. The new trees need to be planted right to prevent future problems.
 - Trees are a long-term investment that need a proper start.
 - Use link to DNR “How to Plant a Tree”, planting specifications
 - considerations to “Right Tree Right Place”, utilities, etc.

3.) Detection trees:

- a.) We recognize that it is currently one of the few tools available for detection. This makes it very important and we support it until better tools are available.
 - We encourage our members to assist the state as asked in providing sites for trap trees and with additional steps that may be needed.
 - The WAA President should immediately request that the membership contact their two Senators and their House Representative and ask them to support the DNR and DATCP’s federal directed appropriation requests to fund EAB survey work and public awareness.”

- b.) Ask the state to be open and share information on finds, trap trees etc. with the WAA and the public (prefer current web based maps).
- 4.) DNR EAB Toolkit:
- a.) Strong support, we see this as an excellent step to prepare communities to deal with EAB.
 - b.) Community follow through will be important for implementation. WAA members should help.
 - c.) WAA members should contribute ideas, new tools and successful models to the DNR to include in the toolkit revisions
- 5.) Treatment:
- Separate attachment
- 6.) State Science Panel:
- The WAA supports the development of a state science panel that would provide science-based advice to the statewide EAB program.
- 7.) Use of eradication zones to control EAB:
- Need to recognize that no one answer will work in every circumstance. Managers need various management options defined for them and clear criteria are needed to direct managers when it is best to use these options.
 - Need to recognize that eradication zones as they have been used have not worked in eradicating EAB.
 - All options should be on the table including (but not limited to) slow the spread, treatment and eradication.
 - The real answer is to have more research to find what management options will work and when they work best.
- 8.) Consumer Protection:
- We are concerned that there will be unscrupulous people doing work that should not be done.
 - Contact DATCP to express that concern. (Dave Graham)
 - Have links on our web site to ISA (How to Hire an Arborist), DATCP consumer protection information (if something is appropriate), possibly the BBB.
 - Ask ISA to create a piece on proper care (limited injections) in EAB areas.
 - (- We will not create pieces but use existing sources.)
- 9.) Removal of ash trees before EAB is in the area:
- We caution that many factors need to be considered before anyone undertakes the wholesale removal of ash because of EAB.
 - We recommend careful and strategic planning before such steps are taken and rarely would recommend ash removal before EAB is in your area.
 - No one can predict what future controls might be found.
- 10.) State Champion Ash Tree:
- Look at feasibility of protecting it.
 - If enough support may want to protect the top 3 to 5?

Conclusion:

Our industry dealt with and survived Dutch elm disease (DED) 40 years ago. There is a lot we can learn from those experiences and what EAB is presenting to us now. We need more research, more variety in planting and we need to be better connected politically on local, state and national levels. We need to envision positive outcomes and make sure we are pushing towards them. The answer to EAB is sound management of the entire urban forest.

Respectfully submitted by the WAA EAB Committee:

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