Ash Tree Management in Colorado

March 2014



The map associated with this information should help you determine your proximity to known emerald ash borer (EAB) infestations. Generally, the closer you are to known locations the higher the risk of ash trees being infested. The decision on what to do about managing this insect will have to be done individually by every owner for every ash tree in an area where this insect becomes established. This calculation will have to consider all the costs of treatment and balance these against the costs associated with not attempting to control EAB injury. Often the most critical factor in these decisions will be how much the tree is valued. Unfortunately, there will be costs associated with this insect regardless of the management options you choose.

To assess the condition and value of the ash trees on your property you should contact a licensed and International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist. At the same time, you can get estimates for treatment, removal and/or replacement. <u>Verify an ISA Certification / Find a Tree Care Service</u>

The management options you choose depend on how valuable the trees are to you and your level of risk, and they include one or more of the following:

- Monitor
- Treat
- Remove ash trees



Management Options

Monitor:

You can opt to stand by this year and wait to see if EAB is found closer to your location in 2014. Trees that are infested with EAB that are untreated or ineffectively treated will die prematurely, requiring their removal. Standing dead ash trees are a hazard and it is better to remove them sooner rather than later. It is generally more dangerous and expensive to remove a standing dead tree.

Treat:

There are several treatment options. If you are in Zone 1, or in Zone 2 and have a low level of risk, please see this document on treatments, <u>Control</u> <u>Options for Emerald Ash Borer in Colorado</u>

Remove ash trees:

If you decide to remove trees, it is better to have it done sooner rather than later. Remember that if you are in the <u>EAB Quarantine</u>, you may not move ash material out of the area.

Replace trees:

If you decide to replace your tree(s) a good resource is the <u>Front Range Tree Recommendation</u> <u>List©</u>

ZONE 1 - EAB INFESTED

Definition: As of April 2014, this area is known to be infested by EAB or has a good likelihood of having some EAB nearby in 2014.

Area presently affected (April 2014): The five, mile-square quadrants within the City of Boulder where EAB has been detected and areas within five miles of these known infested points.

Management considerations: Ash trees within this zone have the highest likelihood of benefitting from controls beginning in 2014. Higher risk of significant infestations of EAB in 2014 can be expected on properties closest to the areas of presently known infestations.

It can be expected that areas within this zone will see widespread death of unprotected ash trees caused by EAB within the next few years. Within a decade it can be expected that most unprotected ash will be dead.

This entire Zone is within the EAB Quarantine Area. Ash tree material is prohibited from moving out of the Quarantine area without approved treatments. For more information on the EAB Quarantine visit <u>www.eabcolorado.</u> <u>com</u>

ZONE 2 - EAB QUARANTINE

Definition: The entire EAB Quarantine area

Area presently affected (April 2014): All areas within the present EAB Quarantine of Boulder County and adjacent landfill sites, which are beyond the present EAB Infested Zone 1.

Management considerations: Ash trees within this zone are not likely to benefit from controls in 2014. Controls will be appropriate in future years, when EAB is known to have spread to nearby areas. Natural spread of EAB can be expected to encompass most, if not all, of this area in the next few years.

Increased efforts should be made to detect any new infestations of EAB that are present within this zone. Any possible detection should be reported to the <u>Colorado Department of Agriculture</u> to determine positively if any new infestation does exist.

Planting of non-ash replacement trees at this time may allow trees to establish before ash trees become infested.

Ash tree material is prohibited from moving out of the EAB Quarantine area without approved treatments. For more information on the EAB Quarantine visit <u>www.eabcolorado.com</u>

ZONE 3 - EAB PLANNING - SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

Definition: The geographic area, outside of Zones 1 and 2, which can be expected to be infested within the next decade by EAB through its natural spread beyond the present known location.

Area presently affected (April 2014): All areas where ash trees grow in northeastern Colorado that is within the South Platte drainage.

Management considerations: Ash trees within this zone are not likely to benefit from controls in 2014. Controls will be needed in future years, when EAB is known to have spread to nearby areas. Natural spread of EAB over the next decade can be expected to encompass most, if not all, of this area.

Increased efforts should be made to detect any new infestations of EAB that are present within this zone. Any possible detection should be reported to the <u>Colorado Department of Agriculture</u> to determine positively if any new infestation does exist.

Planting of non-ash replacement trees at this time may allow trees to establish before ash trees become threatened.

Based on the presently known distribution of EAB within Colorado, it is very unlikely that your ash trees have EAB. Insecticide treatment would be preventative in nature and is not advised.

ZONE 4 - EAB ALERT - ALL REMAINING AREAS OF COLORADO

Definition: Areas of the state geographically isolated from the present infestation located in Boulder County and are not expected to become infested through natural spread of EAB.

Area presently affected (April 2014): All areas of Colorado that are outside of the areas of northeastern Colorado that are bounded by the South Platte drainage.

Management considerations: Emerald ash borer is not known to be present in these areas of the state and they are no more, nor less, at risk of becoming infested by EAB following the detection of this insect in Boulder County.

Areas within this zone can become infested if humans move EAB to these areas. This is most likely to occur from movement of EAB-infested firewood that moves into Colorado from areas where this insect is present. Such transfers of ash wood are illegal under federal law, but ignorant or criminally negligent individuals, travelling to the state might transport infested ash wood products at any time; now or in the future.

Increased efforts should be made to detect any new infestations of EAB that are present within this zone. Any possible detection should be reported to the <u>Colorado Department of Agriculture</u> to determine positively if any new infestation does exist.

Based on the presently known distribution of EAB within Colorado there is no likelihood of any benefit at this time in initiating any insecticidal controls for EAB.

Planting of non-ash replacement trees at this time should be considered. This can allow new trees to establish well and serve as a form of insurance against the future possibility of EAB becoming established in the area.



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