

EAB Alert! Destructive Pest Advancing Across Minnesota

In Minnesota, emerald ash borer (EAB) has now been found in Hennepin, Houston, Ramsey, and Winona counties.

Forest Pests Posing the Greatest Threat to Minnesota Trees:

- **Emerald Ash Borer** has destroyed millions of ash trees in the Midwest and is now destroying trees in Minnesota, which affects the timber industry as well as family and community forests.
- **Gypsy Moth** can defoliate whole hardwood forests year after year, slow tree growth, and already has a toe-hold in Cook and Lake counties.
- **Asian Longhorned Beetle**, not yet found in Minnesota, bores into maples, elms, and willows. Once this pest has invaded an area, these species may be lost.
- **Dutch Elm Disease** remains a threat, with more than 56 communities around the state reporting an alarming increase in the number of sick elms.
- **Oak Wilt** continues to fester in many suburban and rural communities of the Twin Cities and Southeastern Minnesota.
- **Thousand Cankers Disease** of walnut was confirmed in the native range of eastern black walnut in 2010 and now threatens the 6 million eastern black walnut trees in southern Minnesota.



Shawn Fritcher, DNR, and Mark Abrahamson, MDA, survey the first known dead ash due to EAB in Minnesota, found on MnDOT land adjacent to Great River Bluffs State Park in Winona County (Aug. 2011).



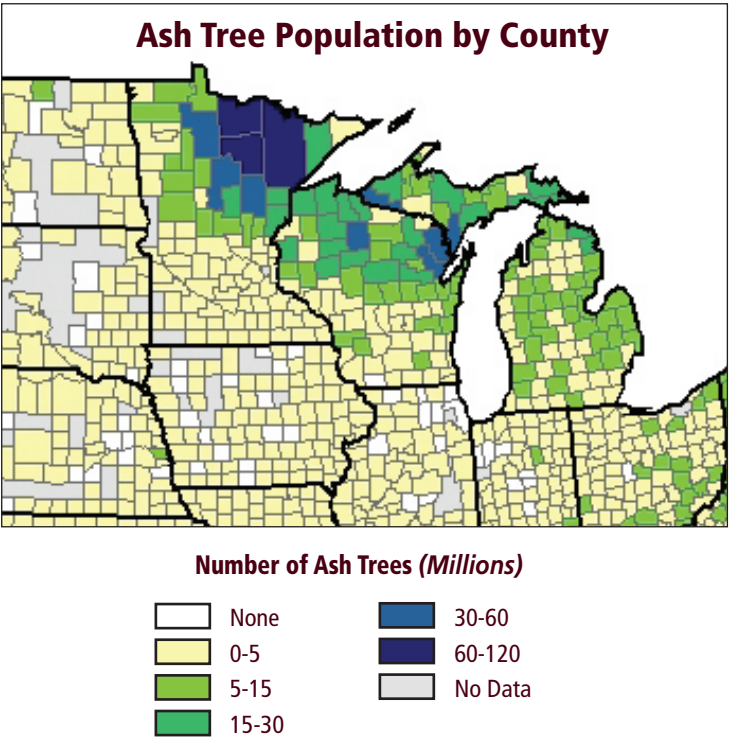
EAB larvae burrow under an ash tree's bark and destroys the cambium, killing the tree. Damage like this is the result of an incredible abundance of EAB larvae.

Response to EAB, and other tree pests, will require difficult management decisions at the local level. Consideration must be made for increased energy costs, increased stormwater runoff, tree removal and replacement costs, loss of habitat, and decreased property values resulting from tree loss.

Current threats:

Gypsy Moth, Emerald Ash Borer, and Asian Longhorned Beetles travel like hitchhikers across state and national borders—in shipping crates, firewood, logs, nursery stock, and even on car bumpers. High-risk points-of-entry include campgrounds, sawmills, nurseries, and urban areas. If we do not stop them there, they will spread to forests and the countryside, with devastating results.

- EAB management will cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators, and forest-product industries tens of millions of dollars. Minnesota has more than 998 million ash trees in forests, communities, and agricultural areas throughout the state.
- Gypsy Moth—It costs one-third as much to slow the spread of Gypsy moth as to treat it once established.
- Asian Longhorned Beetle alone could destroy 1.2 billion trees in the U.S. at a value of \$669 billion dollars if not stopped, according to U.S. Forest Service estimates.



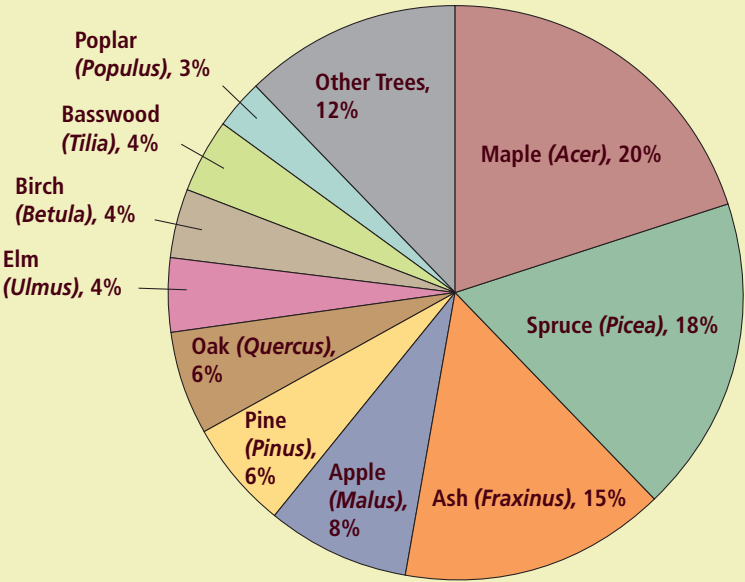
More than 998 million ash trees in Minnesota forests are at risk. Campgrounds and communities can be “gateways” for EAB.

Value of Shade Trees:



100 HEALTHY TREES (during 40 years of growth)		
	YARD	PUBLIC
BENEFITS:	\$364,000	\$380,000
COSTS:	\$92,000	\$148,000
NET BENEFITS:	\$272,000	\$232,000

Top Tree Genera in Minnesota Communities



Ash makes up 15 percent of the trees in Minnesota communities and maples are the most predominant at 20 percent. Maple, spruce, and ash together make up more than 50% of all Minnesota community tree genera.

Minnesota responds:

State agencies and the University of Minnesota have teamed up for a coordinated response. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) monitors and responds to the introduction of exotic and invasive plant pests. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has overall forest management responsibility and, with University of Minnesota researchers, assists local government and landowners to restore forest resources and utilize the large volume of wood and brush being cut down. They work closely to:

Assess tree resources, resulting in:

- Annual monitoring for Gypsy moth and EAB
- Training a statewide network of agency and volunteer forest health monitors:
 - Certified Tree Inspectors
 - Forest Pest First Detectors
- A statewide survey of 700 community forests provided an assessment of the risk posed by new forest pest invaders.

Slow the spread of invasive pests:

- Establishing quarantines and management programs to slow the spread of EAB
- Dispersing biological controls of tree pests
- Successfully treating and suppressing Gypsy moth populations in Northeast Minnesota and the metro area.

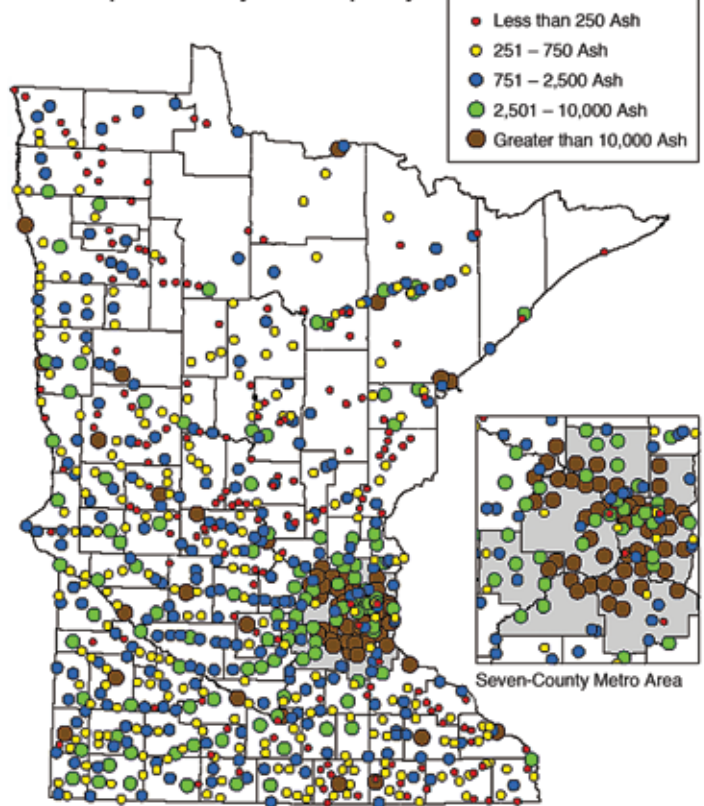
Helping communities and residents to prepare and react:

- Establishing the one-stop www.SaveOurAsh.net website for best practices and advice for residents
- Educating community leaders and residents in town-hall meetings and preparedness workshops
- Developing model pest-management ordinances for communities.



Residents consistently rank trees as the 1st or 2nd priority for improving their neighborhoods. Source: Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program Surveys.

Ash Population by Municipality



Recently completed tree assessment in 700 communities will help determine threats to our forests and the need to plant a greater variety of trees.

But the need is great:

MN ReLeaf Grants Stopped. From 1990 to 2007, \$7.6 million* in grants leveraged \$9 million in local match, helping more than 330 communities start up or expand tree planting, care, and protection efforts. MN ReLeaf funding stopped in 2007. (* \$7.6 = \$2.9 federal + \$4.7 state.)

Fewer Tree City USAs. In 2010, 103 Minnesota communities qualified, down from 134 in 1997. This program suffers from a shortage of DNR staff to promote and administer. This means local programs lose recognition and community support.

EAB Grants Fall Short. Two years ago grants provided 18 local communities with resources to plan and prepare for EAB, but scores more need that same support.

Budget Cuts. DNR urban and community forestry staff reduced from 2.0 to 1.3 FTE positions. City budgets are being severely cut.

Professional Services. Communities need professional assistance to support tree programs.

Decision makers have a role...

2012 Legislative Priorities:

MnSTAC supports:

- Government programs that will preserve and protect the state's tree and community forest resources, as well as programs that provide for removal and replacement of diseased or infested trees
- Funding for municipal EAB planning and response efforts
- Maintaining the roles and responsibilities that the DNR and MDA each have relative to community forest health management and invasive species, and maintaining funding for invasive species and forestry programs at MDA and DNR so that federal funds can continue to be leveraged
- LCCMR's recommendation to fund biological control of EAB using three species of stingless wasps to kill developing EAB eggs and larvae
- Funding the successful, statewide ReLeaf Program, and tree planting and protection as a stormwater mitigation Best Management Practices.

Failure to leverage federal funds for tree pest rapid response and management programs will place a greater long-term burden on the state and effectively create a new unfunded burden on local governments.



Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC) was established in 1974 to address the health and well-being of Minnesota's community forests, initially focusing on Dutch elm disease. Today, MnSTAC has a diverse membership of over 420 individuals, representing a broad spectrum of green-industry interests. MnSTAC is recognized throughout Minnesota and the nation for its expertise, innovation, counsel, coordination, and support related to a variety of shade-tree issues.

A coalition of organizations supports these considerations:



For More Information

Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee—
www.mnstac.org

League of Minnesota Cities—
www.lmc.org

Minnesota Society of Arboriculture—
www.msa-live.org

Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association—
www.mnla.biz

MN Dept. of Agriculture—
www.mda.state.mn.us

MN Dept. of Natural Resources—
www.mndnr.gov

Tree Link—
www.treelink.org

Tree Trust—
www.treetrust.org

USDA Forest Service—
www.na.fs.fed.us

USDA Forest Service's Center for Urban Forest Research—
www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufur/

University of Minnesota—
www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/category/urban-natural-resources/

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