

THE EMERALD ASH BORER



WHAT IS IT?

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle that is metallic green, about ½ inch long and attacks and kills ash trees. The larvae feed on the inner bark of these trees, destroying the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients and killing the tree altogether.

HOW DID IT ARRIVE IN NICOLLET COUNTY?

- EAB was first discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. It is believed that it arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia.
- EAB was found in Minnesota on May 13, 2009, in the city of Saint Paul and has since spread throughout Minnesota. There are now 30 counties in the state with EAB, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has confirmed it has been found in Nicollet County.

WHAT ARE THE CITY'S NEXT STEPS?

- The Public Works Department continues to inspect public and private properties, both on request and during routine inspections.
- Suspect trees are carefully analyzed using sampling mechanisms consistent with MDA guidelines that include visually looking at all parts of the tree, branch removal, and bark shaving with a drawknife.
- The City has adopted a proactive "Structured Removal Plan" of ash trees to slow the spread of EAB by reducing host trees. Staff are removing those in decline and those requested to be removed in anticipation of the larger loss of the entire ash population.

WHAT SHOULD NORTH MANKATO RESIDENTS DO?

- **Monitor the health of the on ash trees on your private property or about town.**
- **Look for woodpeckers around ash trees (they like to feed on the EAB larvae).**
- **Watch for bark cracks in ash trees. EAB larvae tunneling beneath the bark can cause the bark to split open.**
- **Look for S-shaped galleries under the bark and for small, D-shaped exit holes in the crown of the tree.**
- **Dispose of ash tree debris at the North Mankato Compost Site located at 600 Webster Ave.**
- **Do not cut or trim ash trees during the EAB's active time of year: from May 1st through September 31st.**
- **Don't import or move firewood unless it's MDA Certified (see attached graphic).**

For additional information, visit northmankato.com/eab or call the North Mankato Parks Department at 507-625-4141.