

City of Dallas Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Action Plan

Overview

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is a destructive non-native wood-boring pest of ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.). Native to Asia, the emerald ash borer beetle (EAB) was unknown in North America until its discovery in southeast Michigan in 2002. All native ash species are susceptible to attack. Ash trees with low population densities of EAB often have few or no external symptoms of infestation. EAB is a significant threat to urban, suburban, and rural forests as it kills both stressed and healthy ash trees. EAB is very aggressive, and ash trees may die within two or three years after they become infested.

Purpose

The City of Dallas Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan has been developed to provide a city-wide coordinated response and to help the City and citizens plan to respond to the potential adverse effects of EAB. The primary goal of the Plan is to provide guidance prior to and when EAB is found in the City of Dallas; through effective communication with the citizens of Dallas; and to mitigate impacts.

Technical Team serves as the lead group in advising City executives, planning and coordinating all forestry and EAB activities.

- Technical readiness – Ensure that policy decisions, actions, and education initiatives are guided by the best and most current science.
- Administrative Readiness - to ensure that current, relevant, and achievable policies are in place that allows the actions described in this plan to occur quickly and unencumbered.
 1. Maintain EAB Action Plan.
 2. Identify resources and needs.

Communications Team supports activities of the Technical Team by communicating accurate information quickly and broadly in a manner that increases the effectiveness of efforts to prevent and control EAB infestations.

- Media campaign for City of Dallas Forestry, including EAB
- Educate the public and media to ensure accuracy of information
Develop, plan, and strategize for both pre- and post-infestation

Pre-Infestation Strategy

Goal:

To decrease impact on overall forest canopy by increasing populations of other native tree species, educating the public, and reducing the overall ash tree population.

Ash trees benefit people, wildlife, and the environment, including but not limited to, as a keystone species, habitat for bats, woodpeckers, owls with nesting holes, multiple nesting birds, supply of seeds for a multitude of species of wildlife.

Ash woodlands, as the City of Dallas has in parts of the Great Trinity Forest, support a rich and diverse ground flora. Shed ash leaves retain more nutrients and are recycled more rapidly than those of most other trees. They improve soils, raising pH and increasing nutrient availability. Thus, they greatly influence on decomposer, mycorrhizal (fungi) and soil communities.

Complete removal or loss of the ash tree population has the potential for an extinction cascade. Studies indicate that there are 98 species of ash-dependent specialist invertebrate herbivores, including nine species of hawk moth.

We are working towards ash tree conservation as part of an integrated approach to managing emerald ash borer, including possible treatments for significant trees. Treatments may be both injections and soil drenches. Per our partner agencies no treatment is recommended until the beetle is found within 20 miles of a confirmed site.

Monitoring:

- Worked with the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) to increase EAB monitoring/trapping efforts in and around Dallas. Completed April 2021
- May 2021, City staff attended EAB monitoring session with TFS staff in Fort Worth to see on the ground impacts of EAB
- TFS will contact Team immediately if any EAB are found in Dallas County traps

Inventory:

- Forestry Technical Team began reviewing available historical data, data from outside organizations, determining what level of a tree inventory would produce the most beneficial data.
- Ash inventory of select Park properties from available 2014 park tree survey to determine if any change in Ash population was completed. This comparison found a decline in population except within riparian areas.
- Tree Keeper online software training. This software was identified as an effective and efficient means to inventory trees in the City of Dallas. Multiple attributes can be used, such as but not limited to location, species, size, and condition of the trees. Training started in late July 2021.
- Updates to inventory, ash tree removals and new plantings

- Park and Recreation, City Forester, and Certified Arborists-Park lands focusing on riparian areas as results with 2014 Park tree inventory found ash counts increased in this area
- Public Works, Medians, and publicly owned ROW
- Water Utilities, City Forester, and Community Foresters - Assist Public Works, Creeks, Floodway Management areas and Branch Out Dallas tree locations

Tree plantings

- Ash trees have not been included in public property plantings since 2014
- Identify areas of large, concentrated ash populations - comprehensive planning of removals and plantings to replace with other native species
- Use media campaign, education, and trees for private property programs such as Branch Out Dallas to increase non-ash tree populations and overall canopy cover

Outreach:

- Developed talking points for public outreach efforts and media to centralize messaging across all departments
- June 2021 – team launches Urban Forestry website with various outreach information and event listings
- Began producing EAB related videos to be posted on the website
- Continue to integrate volunteer groups into both the outreach and data collection efforts
- Develop and initiate a media/marketing campaign

Response to Detection

Goal:

To manage population and spread of EAB.

The Forestry Technical Team, with local, state and federal partners, and agencies will implement coordinated efforts to contain the infestation according to current national policies and scientific information.

- Work with Federal, State and local agencies in mitigation efforts
- Quarantine – publicize laws, regulations, or COD policies
 - ✓ Plan and implement containment actions.
 - Issuance of Emergency Quarantine by Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
 - ✓ Schedule an emergency meeting with cooperators (State, municipal, tree services utility companies, recreational areas, and other).
 - ✓ Survey
 - Organize and conduct a delimiting survey to determine the infestation boundaries. (Technical Team, TFS and USDA APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine).

- All ash trees within ½ mile of positive find will be identified and assessed for EAB activity within a reasonable time frame.
- If additional EAB-infested trees are detected in any area, an expanded survey will be initiated within ½ mile from the new find.
- ✓ Initiate City code, policies, regulatory and control activities as necessary.
- ✓ Determine if removal of potential host trees is appropriate.
- ✓ Develop compliance agreements with stakeholders to restrict movement from EAB-infested (regulated) areas.
- Develop systematic tree removal process – Ash trees killed by EAB requires active management response, as they are known to become structurally compromised quickly after death. Risk of part or whole tree failure increases exponentially thus posing a public safety issue and removal should be completed as quickly as possible.
- Identify specimen trees to treat using proven IPM and Biological controls in coordination with TFS
- Budgeting
- Increase monitoring and record population increases and reductions
- Continue removals due to damage, age and condition
- Continue planting/removal plans for high ash concentration areas
- Monitor ongoing research into EAB resistant ash cultivars

The Communications Team - communicates response information.

- ✓ Release accurate information to the media.
- ✓ Provide accurate information and updates to the media through the core members of the Communication Team.
- ✓ Provide accurate information to affected residents.
 - Prepare information for customizing and distributing to affected area/neighborhood(s) immediately after infestation is found.
 - Host resident/landowner meetings to share information as soon as possible after finding an infestation.
- ✓ Communicate with public and industry professionals to foster cooperation and maximize effective response.

Federal and State Agencies

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- Allocation of resources to activities for long-term benefit to slowing the spread of EAB or helping affected communities recover from EAB infestation
- Development and deployment of EAB biological control organisms
- Research into integrated pest management of EAB that can be used at the local level to help safeguard an ash population of significant importance to a community
- Research, in tandem with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and other Federal agencies, into the phenomenon of “lingering ash,” or ash trees that are still alive and present in the landscape in areas of otherwise heavy infestation
- Integration of findings of research

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/emerald-ash-borer>

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)

- Establishes, maintains and regulates quarantines
Title 4, Chapter 19, Subchapter Z, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Quarantine, (§§19.700 - 19.703)
§19.700 Quarantined Pest
§19.701 Quarantined Areas
§19.702 Quarantined Articles
§19.703 Restrictions
- Assist in all response activities including quarantine, evaluation, identification, disposal, disinfection, epidemiology, trace-backs and trace-forwards, permitting, inspection, transportation control systems, and survey activities.
- Cooperate in the declaration of the emergency area and assist in defining the emergency area and control or quarantined zones.
- Provide investigations and support in cases of regulatory violations.
- Consult with State and local authorities regarding response operations.
- Provide Regulatory Treatments
https://www.texasagriculture.gov/Portals/0/images/ACP/EmeraldAshBorer/EAB_Treatments_Measures.pdf
- Guidelines for Complying with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) State and Federal Quarantine Regulations
https://www.tnlaonline.org/uploads/7/7/5/3/77532106/guidelines_for_complying_with_emerald_ash_borer_quarantine.pdf

A&M Texas Forest Service

- Collect, collate, analyze, and disseminate technical and logistical information and distribute to field staff and cooperators.

- Assist in all response activities including quarantine, evaluation, identification, disposal, disinfection and epidemiology.
- Assist partners and communities on media, public notices and communication
- Provide training for partners, communities or support agencies involved in response operations. Training may consist of general information, survey, sampling, diagnostic, and regulatory procedures.

This document was developed in cooperation with Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Forestry. Oklahoma Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan, 2015.

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