

IT'S TIME TO LOOK FOR EMERALD ASH BORER AND OTHER PESTS ON YOUR TREES

Spring means it's time to think about trees. The Forestry Department received many calls about Emerald Ash Borer and 2-Lined Chestnut Borer last year. Did you know that 2-lined Chestnut Borer is a cousin of Emerald Ash Borer but it attacks oaks instead of ash trees?

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an imminent threat to all of Northbrook's ash trees. Despite annual surveys and active scouting, EAB has not been found in Northbrook as of this writing. However, communities like Morton Grove, Park Ridge, Palatine and Schaumburg found EAB for the first time last year while conducting surveys of their ash trees.

This year the Village will be surveying over 3 dozen ash trees to look for signs of Emerald Ash Borer larvae. The residents whose trees have been selected have been notified. Last summer we looked for declining conditions; thinning canopies, heavy woodpecker damage and holes in the trunks prior to selecting the survey ash trees. Previous year surveys have found a large presence of Red-headed Ash borers which are found in declining Ash trees but not as aggressive as the Emerald Ash Borer.

You can help us find EAB this year by scouting for these symptoms in your ash trees. Here's what you can look for:

1. As your tree leafs out this spring, look for a thinning canopy, dead or dying branches or very few leaves right at the top of the tree.
2. Do you have any suckers on the trunk of your tree? Suckers are groups of branches growing in a cluster from a point along the trunk or the base of the tree.
3. Did you notice any holes in the trunk? Have you seen a lot of woodpeckers around your Ash tree trunk? A borer may be present in your Ash tree, but the insect may not necessarily be the Emerald Ash Borer. An arborist can confirm what kind of borer is attacking your tree. Usually, borer activity is a sign that your tree is in decline and may be a good candidate for replacement.
4. Although there are no 100% effective treatments for Emerald Ash Borer, there are products on the market such as Merit® insecticide or a new very effective insecticide marketed as Tree-Age® that can be applied by a certified pesticide applicator at the proper time to your Ash trees. Keep in mind that these treatments must be done annually for them to be effective. Research has still not conclusively proven that insecticides are the silver bullet for EAB control but they are helpful for trying to preserve a specimen ash tree.

You may refer to the Illinois Emerald Ash Borer website at www.IllinoisEAB.com.

Gypsy Moth-

Although Gypsy Moth will continue to be a perennial problem in Northern Illinois, last year's wet weather may have activated a natural control, *Entomophaga maimaiga*, a fungus that preys on Gypsy Moth larva. We suspect this fungus reduced the Gypsy Moth populations and the related feeding on the trees' leaves.

We advise you and continue to be vigilant about looking for tan-colored, oval-shaped egg masses on your trees this winter. If we get a dry spring and a hot summer, Gypsy Moth populations may resurge.

Please call if you would like more information about a Gypsy Moth program for your trees.

Two-Lined Chestnut Borer-

Two-Lined Chestnut Borer is an aggressive pest of stressed oak trees. Any very large and ancient oak along with oaks recently impacted by construction or defoliation by Gypsy Moth are most susceptible to an attack of Two-Lined Chestnut Borer. Adult Two-Lined Chestnut Borers resemble EAB except they are black with two yellow lines running vertically along their backs.

You may notice that an oak you've had growing on your property for years now suddenly shows wilted foliage on scattered branches in late summer in the upper canopy and the leaves are sparser. That's when you need to carefully look for the D-shaped exit hole of the Two-Lined Chestnut Borer. Sometimes, the exit holes may be high up in the crown of the tree, so you may need to call a Certified Arborist to inspect your tree. The symptoms sometimes resemble Oak wilt except with Oak wilt the leaves and branches wilt quickly, while with borer injury the wilting may take longer.

There are several treatments available for treating Two-Lined Chestnut Borer and they need to be applied in May prior to the larva emergence. Merit® is the most effective treatment and can be ground-injected or trunk injected into the tree. Treatment is important to control this pest as it will kill sections of your oak tree over a course of three years until the decline becomes irreversible and removal the only recourse.

After treatment, it's important to provide cultural controls for your tree including proper mulching, watering and a biostimulant application such as compost tea.

Fungal Blights-

Last year's wet weather is sure to show itself on our trees with springtime fungal blights such as Apple Scab on crabapples, Fire blight on pears and other leaf spot diseases. Remember that any application of fungal controls such as fungicides must be made prior to and as leaves emerge on your trees. Once the leaf unfurls, it's usually too late to chemically control the fungal outbreak for this year and then sanitation is the only other control. We recommend that you hire a certified pesticide applicator to help you with fungicide treatments.

Certain fungal blights like Dutch Elm Disease, Oak Wilt and Verticillium Wilt require specific conditions to activate the disease cycle. If you suspect your tree has a fatal wilt disease, we can come out to diagnose the symptoms for you.

Our Forestry Department welcomes any questions you may have about tree care. Please call us at 847/272-4711 ext. 3203.



Emerald Ash Borer



Symptoms of Emerald Ash Borer Infestation



Two Lined Chestnut Borer



Symptoms of Two Lined Chestnut Early infestation



Female Gypsy Moth



Gypsy Moth eggs



Apple Scab Photo



Fire blight Photo



Oak wilt in woodland



Dutch Elm Disease moving down a row of closely spaced trees.
Photo courtesy of Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service

Dutch Elm Disease



Verticillium wilt
On Maple