



CITY OF PALOS HILLS

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November 15, 2010

Re: Emerald Ash Borer Detected in City of Palos Hills

On November 3, 2010 the presence and infestation of five ash trees with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) insect was confirmed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture near the intersection of Roberts Road and Paxos Dr. The presence of EAB has been detected in nearby communities for several years. This is the first time a tree/s infested with EAB has been detected in the City of Palos Hills. The trees will be removed due to their declining health as a result of EAB.

The EAB insect is a small, metallic green, non native invasive pest, whose larva feeds underneath the bark of ash trees cutting off the flow of nutrients to the tree causing the tree to decline in health and ultimately die. Ash trees can be infested with EAB for several years before the trees begin to show signs of EAB infestation.

Signs of EAB infestation include thinning of the crown (die back), small D-shaped holes in the bark, water sprouts (shoots) growing from the trunk of the tree, excessive woodpecker activity on the tree and, S-shaped larval galleries underneath the bark of the tree.

Palos Hills has approximately 700 to 1000 ash trees located on city parkways and city properties. Many more ash trees are located on private properties. The City's plan for managing EAB is to remove the ash tree after infestation with EAB has been confirmed and the tree starts showing signs of decline. The city will seek funding, in the form of grants, to replace trees removed from city parkways and city properties.

At this time the City is not proposing any pre-emptive ash tree removals. However, the Department of Agriculture is of the opinion that once a presence of EBA has been confirmed the entire ash tree population within any community is more than likely already infested with EAB. The city arborist has recommended ash trees affected with EAB remain until they show signs of decline and removal is required. This approach will allow for removal and replacement of city owned trees based on the progression of EAB through the community.

Homeowners can contact the city for help with identification and assessment of ash trees on private property. There are several chemical applications available to help protect ash trees against EAB infestation. However, the treatments will not guarantee the ash tree/s against EAB infestation.

Homeowners, when considering insecticidal treatments, on private property, should weigh the value of the tree against the cost of long term treatments. Once insecticidal treatments begin the tree will need to be treated every one to two years, depending on the treatment selected, for the life of the tree.

If you suspect you have found EAB in your property or elsewhere within the City of Palos Hills, contact the Public Works Department at 708-598-3400.

Additional information can be found on the city website at www.paloshillsweb.org or the links provided below:

www.emeraldashborer.info

www.agr.state.il.us

www.mortanarb.org