



## EMERALD ASH BORER

City of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin



### **What is Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)?**

Emerald ash borers (*Agrilus planipennis*) are invasive beetles that kill ash trees by disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients.

### **What type of trees does it attack?**

EAB attacks ash trees in North America. In our area this means primarily white and green ash. Mountain-ash is not a true ash and is not affected.

### **Where has EAB been found?**

EAB has been found in 14 states and Canada. This map shows where the insect has been found in our state.



### **Is EAB in Wisconsin Rapids?**

Yes, EAB has been confirmed in Wisconsin Rapids. Because of this, it is safe to assume that EAB can be found anywhere throughout the City.

### **What do ash trees look like?**



Ash leaves are composed of 5-11 leaflets.



Ash branches and buds are directly across from each other, not staggered.

### **What are symptoms of EAB?**

Ash trees begin to die from the top down and sprouts appear along the trunk:



### ***How many ash trees does Wisconsin Rapids have?***

Wisconsin Rapids has approximately 488 publicly owned ash in parks and along boulevards. This is about 12% of the entire public tree population in Wisconsin Rapids. The number of privately owned ash trees in Wisconsin Rapids is unknown, but is expected to be much higher than the number of publicly owned trees.

### ***What is Wisconsin Rapids doing to prepare for EAB?***

The City has an EAB Preparedness plan that was completed in 2017. They are following recommendations in the plan beginning with removal of poor quality ash. The City anticipates treating about 66% of their public ash trees with an approved insecticide to preserve the best quality ash trees. The preserved trees include those along the Expressway and others throughout the City.

### ***How can I protect my private ash trees?***

Many good homeowner options to protect your ash against EAB exist. A guide to these options can be found at:

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/~/media/Files/plants/eab/eabtreatmentguide2.ashx>

<https://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/article/assets/UW%20Extension%20Homeowner%20Guide%20to%20EAB%20Insecticide%20Treatments.pdf>

### ***What are some additional resources?***

To learn more about EAB in Wisconsin visit:  
<http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/>

To learn more about homeowner options for treating EAB visit:

<http://hort.uwex.edu/articles/homeowner-guide-emerald-ash-borer-insecticide-treatments/>

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### ***If I chose to remove my tree, what are some good replacement species?***

If you chose to replace your tree and want to replant a tree there are many good choices available, but it is important to know that not every tree grows well everywhere. Species selection is important.

### ***What are the steps to take when selecting a tree for planting:***

#### ***1. Location Location Location.***

The first step when choosing to plant a tree is to identify what type of planting site you have. Wisconsin Rapids has a wide range of sites. Close to the river, the sites can often be wet and can be considered riparian sites. Further away from the river, the sites have very sandy soil with low moisture. If your site is near the river, look for trees that are listed as 'wet site' tolerant. Away from the river, look for 'dry site' trees.

#### ***2. Coniferous or deciduous.***

Choose the type of tree you would like. Coniferous trees are often described as evergreens. These trees have needles and retain the needles throughout the year. Deciduous trees typically have leaves and they lose their leaves each fall.

#### ***3. What size of tree is best suited to your site?***

Consider the mature size of the tree, not simply the size of the tree when it is planted. If you are in a tight location next to a home or structure you may want to choose a smaller growing tree. Got a big backyard? Choose a large shade tree.

#### ***4. Other factors.***

Trees have many traits that you may wish to have or not. Some of these include: flowers, fall color, fruits/nuts, wildlife attraction and shape. These factors may also help you make your tree selection decision.

### ***What trees are suitable for growing in Wisconsin Rapids?***

A complete list of good choices can be found at:  
<http://hort.uwex.edu/files/2015/06/Alternatives-to-Ash-for-Homeowners.pdf>