

Do I have an ash tree ?

A large portion of the City of Canandaigua urban forest is made up of ash trees both on City and private properties. Here is how to identify ash trees on your property.



Ash trees have an opposite branching pattern, meaning that branches are directly across from each other.



Ash leaves are compound and typically consist of 5-11 leaflets. The edges of the leaflets may be smooth or toothed.



Ash seeds are paddle shaped and occur in clusters. Seeds will typically remain on trees until late fall or early winter.



On mature ash trees, the bark has a distinct pattern of diamond-shaped ridges. Younger ash trees have smoother bark.

Begin your plan today :

New York State law prohibits the City from removing trees on private property. However, there are a number of local, reputable tree maintenance companies that will be able to help you identify the trees on your property and look for signs of EAB.

For homeowners, chemical treatment may be a viable option for trees that have healthy crowns. Those trees with unhealthy crowns (i.e., significant twig and branch dieback) should be removed prior to the death of the tree. Removal costs vary according to the size of the tree, the location and the access available for removal equipment.

Please be aware that dead ash trees are likely to begin dropping large branches and/or falling down within two years.

For more information research online.
Here are some sites to try:

National EAB information
<http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

New York State EAB information
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html>

Choose a tree service company
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5291.html>

This brochure prepared by
the City of Canandaigua Tree Advisory Board
www.canandaiguanewyork.gov

Emerald Ash Borer

What does it mean for the trees on your property and in the City of Canandaigua ?



What is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) ?

The EAB is a small Asian insect that was introduced to North America in pallet wood in the late 1990s. It attacks all native ash tree species. Once infected, the tree dies within two to four years. Dead tree boughs become brittle and easily fall in heavy winds.



Ash tree with scaled bark and "D" shaped EAB holes.

Healthy Ash Tree



Infected Ash Tree



How do I know if they are in my trees ?

The signs of EAB are dead branches in the tree canopy, scaling bark, small "D" shaped holes (size of a pencil eraser), heavy woodpecker activity and the formation of watershoots.



Tree with watershoots forming at the base.

What is the City doing ?

Because of the expense of chemical treatments and the uncertainty of their effectiveness on already infected trees, ash trees showing signs of EAB infection or in close proximity to infected trees on City property, including street trees and parks trees, are being systematically removed and replaced by a variety of tree species. This type of thoughtful replanting will increase the diversity of our urban forest.



Newly planted tree with waterbag.

Under wires, shorter trees are being planted while, in other areas, trees that will grow to majestic heights are being planted whenever possible. Being proactive in removing ash trees will slow the spread of the pest and allow the City to manage the cost over a number of years which will help to lessen the impact on the City budget.