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EAB Tree Removal FAQ's

1. Why is there a yellow dot on my tree?

A: The yellow removal dot has been protocol in City of Madison Forestry for over 30 years. The mark signifies the street tree needs to be removed, whether it's an ash, maple, oak or any other tree species. The yellow dot mark is not specific to just EAB removals.

2. How many Ash terrace trees will be treated and how many will be removed?

A: Our goal is to treat all treatable ash street trees at least once, if not twice by 2016. In total, we are treating about 12,500 healthy terrace ash trees and removing about 8,500 that are under 10" dbh, in poor condition and or under high voltage power lines. Trees must be treated every two years to be fully protected.

3. Will all ash trees growing under or near power lines be removed? What about the trees that just have phone or cable lines located in the tree canopy?

The City of Madison will pre emptively remove ash in terrace location that are growing under high voltage (> 1Kv) transmission lines where the canopy of the tree has been heavily pruned in the past to maintain clearance away from the power lines. Trees that will be removed typically have been pruned into a 'V' shape or are flat topped or one sided. Trees that only have low voltage power, phone, or cable lines will be treated as long as the trees are >10" diameter and are in good condition.

4. Will the City remove my private tree for free?

A: No, City of Madison Forestry can only prune or remove city owned trees. We recommend you contact a private certified arborist at your own expense. We suggest you get a least 3 different bids. For more info, see websites below.
<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/hiringtreeco.cfm#sthash.KCrRjK4u.dpbs>
<http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/services/forestry/pests/EAB/management.cfm>

5. Why does it have to be removed now, can't we wait until its dead?

A: Ash trees become very brittle as they decline and quickly become a public safety hazard. This also makes them more susceptible to storm damage.

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6. Am I responsible for removing my private tree with EAB?

A: Yes, the property owner is responsible for trees on their private property.

7. Should I remove my private ash tree now?

A: This is a personal choice. We recommend researching the “Management Options” section of our website to help in your decision.

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/parks/services/forestry/pests/EAB/management.cfm>

8. I received a notice that the tree on the terrace will be taken down, will I be notified again before my tree is removed?

A: No, the door tag will be the only notice you will receive about the removal of the tree.

9. Will the City remove the stump of the terrace?

A: City Forestry will notify the Street Division of the stump on the terrace to be grubbed. The Street Division grubs stumps May thru October. Forestry removes street trees 12 month a year, so there will be a delay between the time the tree is removed and the time the stump is removed.

10. Is there a range of time between when you get the notification and when the tree is actually removed?

A: EAB related removals will be starting on the NE and East side as that is where we have the infestation. The tree removal will begin in earnest in 2015 and continue on the terrace for about six years moving across the City and in the parks for probably 8-9 years

Forestry staff does not yet have a list by neighborhood where trees will be cut down in the future. The majority of the preemptive removals we completed this winter were directly around the three infestation pockets. We still need to analyze our field notes and maps to determine where we will go next once the staff and equipment resources are in place. We will also need to monitor the current infestations and prioritize removals in the areas where the infestation has spread or where we find any new pockets of activity.

We will have that information available at some point this year, but our priority and focus right now is to gear up for treatments. It looks like we will not start up

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removing ash trees as a stand-alone project until the end of this year or beginning of 2015. We will continue removing ash trees per the pre-emptive removal criteria as we encounter them when they are related to our normal operations (area cycle pruning, sidewalk replacement, MGE pruning areas).

11. Can ash street trees being cut down on a given block be phased out over a few years so that not all trees are taken down on that block all at once (for instance if nearly the entire block is ash trees and all under wires)?

A: Not all ash trees will necessarily be removed in an all ash block. Ash trees that are over 10" dbh and have met the Forestry Section criteria of good condition, will be treated. Removing some ash trees and then having to go back into the same area a second time does not lead to the efficient use of City resources during a time when they will be strained and it doesn't start regenerating the forest. The other challenge is applying removals equitably to a block.

12. Can I keep the terrace tree wood for my fireplace or cabin?

A: No, due to invasive pests like EAB and diseases like Oak Wilt and Dutch Elm Disease, all wood from terrace trees is taken to the City of Madison Reduction Site and chipped into 1" x 1" wood chips. This prevents further spread of EAB. The wood chips are available to the public for use in their yards as mulch. For more information, visit the Streets Division's website at:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/yardWaste/woodMulch.cfm>