

Position Statement by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, North Dakota Forest Service, and NDSU Extension on the practice of insecticide treatment for emerald ash borer.



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EXTENSION

In February 2023, emerald ash borer (EAB) was detected in Moorhead, Minnesota. There are no known populations of EAB in North Dakota, but we continue to monitor. The nearest populations in surrounding states/provinces include Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Previously, Sauk Centre, Minnesota was the nearest infestation to the east.

Once EAB is detected in North Dakota, ash trees within 15 miles of an infestation may be at risk and insecticide treatment of high value ash trees along streets or in yard settings may be warranted. It is not practical to treat ash trees in forests, shelterbelts, or other large tree plantings. Residents and homeowners are urged to follow recommended treatments or contact a licensed, tree care company.

Each year EAB is found in new locations, sometimes far from previously known infested areas, so it is important to be aware of the current known distribution of the pest. Current maps of known EAB populations can be found at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/maps/plant-health/eab-map>.

Effective insecticide treatments for EAB continue to be developed, and cost-effective treatment protocols are now available to preserve high value ash trees within 15 miles of an infestation. Homeowners must be sure to weigh the costs of treatment with the value of their ash tree and with removal and replacement costs. A treated ash tree will need to be continually treated to preserve the life of the tree. Any person applying insecticides should read and understand any label instructions before conducting a treatment.

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture, North Dakota Forest Service, and NDSU-Extension emphasize the need to increase tree species diversity and remove unhealthy, low-value ash from the landscape. Cooperative efforts will continue to focus on outreach regarding the dangers of firewood transport and surveying high risk sites for EAB. The public can play an important role by becoming familiar with the signs and symptoms of EAB and by reporting suspect trees by going to www.ndda.nd.gov/eab.

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