

Wannetta Powling

From: Ralph Pace [ralphcp@pace@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Ralph Pace
Subject: Report on EAB crisis in Vermont
Attachments: EAB-town-report-draft.docx; EAB-town-report-draft.pdf

I'm forwarding the attached document that defines the emerald ash borer crisis (EAB), its nature, steps to combat it, sources of help in Vermont, and information on what other towns in the state are doing about it.

This document was prepared by REREC (Regional EAB Resource Committee), a group of citizens representing much of southern Vermont headquartered in Ludlow, with the main objective of helping local towns deal with the EAB crisis.

Hopefully your Select board members and other involved town agencies will be able to make use of it in preparing for the onset of EAB and its potential costs.

If you feel that a presentation on EAB would benefit your community, we stand ready to come to your community for this purpose.

I am the chairman of REREC and can be reached at:

802-228-7239 and
ralphcp@pace@gmail.com

Please advise us if you'd like any additional information. The state has produced a number of technical documents that will be helpful to you in identifying ash trees and developing a strategy for managing the EAB crisis.

Sincerely,

Ralph Pace

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Executive Summary

Since its discovery in Michigan in 2002, the emerald ash borer (EAB) has:

- Killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America.
- Caused regulatory agencies and the USDA to enforce quarantines and fines to prevent potentially infested ash trees, logs or hardwood firewood from moving out of areas where EAB occurs.
- Cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries hundreds of millions of dollars.

The damage caused by EAB is from its larva which restricts the flow of water and nutrients in the tree, resulting in its death. The life cycle of EAB can be completed in one year, but two years is often required, especially in vigorous hosts, in cooler climates, or when eggs are laid late in the season. In addition, EAB may require two years to complete development in cut logs or firewood, especially when the wood has dried.

EAB was first located in Vermont in early 2018 in Orange. By the time of this writing, March 2020, 9 different locations in Vermont host infestations by EAB. The latest location detected is in Londonderry. It is principally carried by firewood distribution.

While the Federal government offers minimal technical support, it falls to the state to provide most technical assistance. However, the individual localities bear the burden of all management of EAB controls in the public sector. Private property owners will be responsible for any EAB infestations on their properties. They will need guidance, however, from the state and localities.

Staff training and an inventory of ash trees in the public area are the two most important elements in preparing a town to deal with EAB. This will include the development of a town's strategy for handling the EAB crisis. The three principal strategies are:

- 1 – Do nothing, wait for it to infest town trees and then react
- 2 – Summarily cut down all ash trees
- 3 – Develop a plan, based on the inventory results, to determine trees to be removed or saved via chemical treatment.

Towns should take steps to educate their residents and property owners on EAB using town meetings, newspaper articles, and websites.

The costs of this effort are difficult to assess until an inventory is completed that accounts for healthy, diseased, and dead ash trees. It will be necessary for towns to employ certified third-party firms to remove and handle tree disposal sites if they lack such facilities on their staffs.

It is estimated that the base cost of removing 1,500 ash trees is over \$500,000.

Report to Towns on the Emerald Ash Borer

References for various aspects of this process are at the end of the detailed report that follows. The Regional EAB Resource Committee (REREC) stands ready to assist towns in all aspects of this process.

It is essential that each town recognize that EAB will strike their communities. It is only a question of when.