

PRESS RELEASE



Emerald Ash Borer Beetle Found in Metro Area

For Immediate Release:

CONTACT:

Amelia Hamilton Morris
Chief Communications Officer
Public Information Office
(515) 283-4795
akmorris@dmgov.org

DES MOINES, IOWA – Wednesday, April 15, 2015 – Des Moines is now squarely in the path of emerald ash borer beetle (EAB). There is now a confirmed discovery of the insect in Dallas County, as announced today by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. EAB is now considered to be one of the most destructive forest pests ever seen in North America. The City will join the State and other local officials for a press conference at 10AM, tomorrow, Thursday April 16th at Gray Lake Park on Fleur Drive on the Terrace.

Des Moines is now completely surrounded by EAB, with earlier sightings in Jasper, Boone and Story Counties. It is highly likely that the insect is already present in Des Moines but just hasn't been found yet. EAB kills all species of ash trees when larvae feed under the bark on the actively growing layers of the tree. Trees that have been attacked by the EAB can die in just two to three years after infestation, but more typically last for five years.

The City of Des Moines EAB Management Plan, approved by City Council in the summer of 2014 and fully funded through the year 2020, began in earnest last fall, with preventative removal of ash trees from the rights-of-way and parks across the city. Hundreds have already been removed, though thousands remain.

Chemical insecticides can serve as protective treatments for high-value ash trees. The City of Des Moines will begin treating almost 2,500 of the best ash trees on public property this spring. To see how your neighborhood is affected: <http://bit.ly/1PHEPwB>

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Ash trees on private property are at substantial risk in the coming years. Property owners are encouraged to chemically protect or physically remove their ash trees before the tree dies and becomes a hazard. Visit www.iowatreepests.com for help in crafting a plan. See the City's website for tips from the Municipal Arborist: <http://bit.ly/1D2od93>.

First discovered in Michigan in 2002, the insect has since killed tens of millions of trees across the country. The entire state of Iowa is under quarantine for the movement of ash trees and their residual byproducts, like firewood, lumber, or even wood chips. <http://bit.ly/1FF0RaV>

Questions about the City of Des Moines EAB Management Plan can be referred to David Jahn, of the City's Forestry Division, at DAJahn@dmgov.org or by calling 515-283-4950. For more information contact the City of Des Moines Public Information Office at (515) 283-4795.

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