



Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District

6680 Onondaga Lake Parkway, Liverpool, New York 13088 phone:
315-457-0325 • fax: 315-457-0410 • e-mail: info@ocswcd.org
website: www.ocswcd.org

Dear Resident:

As you may know, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been found in Onondaga County and will soon be infesting all ash trees throughout this region. The removal of ash trees along County highway right-of-ways, including those adjacent to your property, began in the fall of 2013 under the supervision of the Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District.

The State has estimated that approximately 13% of the trees in Onondaga County are ash trees. Similar to the impact of Dutch Elm Disease on elm trees many years ago, once infested with EAB all ash trees will eventually die, usually within 2-7 years after becoming infested. For more information about EAB and how and why it is killing ash trees across the Country, a good place to start is the web site provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County at:

<http://www.extendonondaga.org/emerald-ash-borer-confirmed-in-onondaga-county/>

The Onondaga County EAB Task Force - a group of experts, regulators, educators, municipalities, utilities and others - has been monitoring the threat posed by EAB, and has advised that it is important to begin taking action now. An inventory of ash trees along approximately 800 miles of County highway right-of-way has been conducted, and has identified tens of thousands of ash trees along these right-of-ways, including those adjacent to your property.



EAB larvae feeding inside an ash tree

The options available to the County to protect the safety of those using County highways from falling dead ash trees and tree limbs is to either remove the trees before they die, or treat them with pesticides every few years indefinitely. Based on the number of ash trees involved, the cost of treatment and the uncertainty that treatment will protect every ash tree that is treated, Onondaga County has decided to be proactive and remove ash trees along its highway right of ways, with a goal of doing so before they become infested and die and become a hazard to the travelling public.

The Soil & Water Conservation District will initially target ash trees that already exhibit significant damage or decline. These trees are likely to become safety hazards sooner than other ash trees in the County. As soon as possible, this removal program will be extended to all ash trees along County highway right-of-ways. Ash trees identified with an orange paint mark approximately 4.5 feet above the soil surface have been identified for removal at this time.



Emerald Ash Borer

see over ->

“Promoting excellence in the wise use of our rural and urban natural resources.”

When ash tree removal occurs in your area, the ash tree(s) that are in the County right-of-way in front of homes will be cut down and where possible the stumps ground out, and the disturbed areas will be covered with top soil, seeded and mulched. In areas where it is not possible to get a stump grinder to the stump, these stumps will be cut flush with the ground and not ground out. Ash trees not in front of homes will be cut flush with the ground and the stumps will not be ground out. If you would like to keep the wood from any ash tree take down in front of your property, please notify the District as soon as possible. Please call with any questions at: (315-457-0325, or e-mail us at: esztechmiller@ocswcd.org

We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause, however we feel it is necessary at this time to let you know what our plans are to address the safety hazard expected to be created by EAB. If you have any questions regarding this effort, please call the Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District at 457-0325. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important matter.

The
Emerald Ash Borer
(EAB)
has been found in
Onondaga County

