

Please RSVP for our next event:

Saturday, June 20, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Annual Bike Rodeo and Bicycle Recycling
Karrer Middle School, 7245 Tullymore Dr.

Time to clean out the garage and donate those old bikes the kids have outgrown. Regardless if it's in good or bad shape, recycling will keep the bikes out of the landfill!

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been found in Dublin. Foresters first located this non-native beetle in the Tonti Drive area. However, Paula Chope, city forester, believes the insect has been here for some time, at least three years.

I am truly saddened that this insect has arrived. For the past 16 years I have driven the same route, north on Avery Road up over Route 33. Each fall when I reach the top of the overpass, I scan the landscape enjoying the fall color. It's one of my favorite views. From this high area I can see Dublin's amazing fall tapestry. Much of the color comes from the many green and white ash trees. I know with the arrival of EAB that the colors will fade. Where the purples and yellows stood out, dead trees will stand. This insect will have devastating affects throughout the city. It won't happen all at once, it will take time, but Ash trees will fade.

EAB females lay eggs on Ash trees. The young hatch and immediately bore into the trees xylem and phloem layers, a trees' vascular system. This effectively stops the flow of nutrients and water within the tree and the tree dies. We have native Ash borers in the U.S. However, they only attack unhealthy Ash trees. Paula Chope shared the most significant difference between our native Ash boring beetles and the EAB is that EAB does not discriminate. It affects young, old, healthy, and unhealthy trees and is 100 percent fatal. EAB is thought to have entered the U.S. in the Detroit area in the late 1990's, but was only discovered in 2002 after the Ash trees it had infested started to die. Most assume it entered the U.S. in cargo packing shipped from the beetle's native home, Asia.

No one knows the long term affects EAB will have. Most scientists concur that Ash trees will survive and resistant strands of Ash trees will emerge. However, many Ash will be lost and the economy and landscape will be significantly affected. Ash trees have great importance in the United States. It is a hard wood, but is very pliable and used to make many items including baseball bats, tool handles, and furniture frames. But, the loss of many Ash trees will not only affect humans. It is still widely unknown how the loss of this tree will affect the larger ecosystem in which we live.

We are not the only animal to rely on this tree as a resource. Wave Sphinx moths, Great Ash Sphinx moths, Grote's Sallows moths, Tiger moths, wasps, and many other insects all rely on Ash trees. These insects in turn provide food for other species. There's been a connection between Ash trees and morel mushrooms too. Mushroom hunters always look

under Ash trees knowing the high sugar and nitrogen levels of the falling leaves enrich soils for this fungus. Deer, countless birds, and many rodents like squirrels eat the seed of the Ash trees. Furthermore, young stems and bark are also included in some animal's diets.

There are ways in which to combat EAB. Firstly, any county containing EAB has been placed under quarantine; no one is allowed to move hardwood firewood or living Ash trees or pieces out of the county. In addition to this state law, the USDA has banned any hardwood firewood or Ash trees or pieces from being moved out of the state. Other ways to combat the spread of EAB included removal and destruction of all Ash trees within a half mile radius of infected trees. As you can imagine, this is incredibly costly and thus this practice is now rare. Chemical treatments have been successful. I treated the Ash in my yard with imidacloprid, a chemical that is taken up by the trees roots. It was easy and inexpensive. I'll have to do this each year, but the tree is worth it.

There are around 4,700 Ash trees on public land. Actually, this figure only includes trees planted by staff in parks and along roads and does not include the countless Ash trees in our woodlots or those privately owned. It has been a colossal task to decide how to manage for this insect. Staff has set criteria and started chemical treatment on hundreds of trees. Can they do them all? Of course not and many homeowners will be saddened to know their street tree or park tree might not be saved. However, staff is working hard. Although they are limited by time and funding, I am proud to work with so many caring, dedicated people. They want to see the beauty of the fall landscape and they care about the diversity of wildlife and humans that will be affected by the loss of the Ash tree. For more information on EAB please visit the city's website at www.dublin.oh.us.