



## An Unwelcome Visitor—the Emerald Ash Borer—Has Arrived in St. Louis

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small beetle that probably hitchhiked to the U.S. from Asia. The EAB eats only ash trees. Unfortunately it is deadly, killing the trees by tunneling under the bark. *EAB is comparable to Dutch elm disease in severity. All untreated trees will die within 10 years.*

**Recommendations for Homeowners:** Early action can save your tree and save you money. It is less expensive to treat a tree than to remove it when it dies.

- 1) **Identify ash trees in your yard.** Look for a compound leaf with 7 to 9 leaflets, buds directly opposite, and a diamond pattern in the bark.



- 2) **Assess the health and value of your ash trees.** Sprouts at the base of the trunk, a reduced leaf canopy, dead branches: Any of these can indicate

a low value tree that will not survive even with treatment. These trees should be removed before they die. Ash trees become very brittle when dead, and removal becomes much more expensive.

- 3) **Consult a certified arborist for treatment options.** It is important to rely on the expert advice of a certified arborist. This spring is the time to begin treating the ash trees you want to save. A certified arborist can suggest an effective plan of trunk injections or soil treatment. If ash trees in your yard are struggling, plant new trees nearby now, so they can start growing as replacements. Look for recommended trees at:  
[www.kirkwoodmo.org/StreetTreeGuide](http://www.kirkwoodmo.org/StreetTreeGuide).

**City Trees:** The City of Kirkwood will assess the health of ash trees in the parks and street trees in the right-of-way area along streets. Depending on the health of each tree, a decision will be made to treat and save the tree or remove it.

## Try Out the Tree Benefit Calculator: See an Estimate of the Yearly Benefits from a Tree in Your Own Front Yard

Enter your zip code, the diameter, and the tree type into the online tool at [www.treebenefits.com](http://www.treebenefits.com). You will see how the tree works for you in these ways:

- Storm water reduction
- Property value
- Energy used for cooling
- Air quality: Reducing pollution
- CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide): Reducing your carbon footprint

The 2015 winter floods and approaching spring flood season underscore the important role trees play in managing storm water. The Tree Calculator gives some examples:

- ◆ A swamp white oak with an 8-inch chest-high diameter intercepts 1670 gallons of storm water each year.
- ◆ When that tree grows to 12 inches in diameter, the number increases to 2,802 gallons per year.

## Concerned about flooding or storm water runoff? Think Trees

### Kirkwood's Urban Forestry Commission is a Volunteer Citizen Board

- Promoting a high standard of long-term planning, maintenance, and perpetuation of Kirkwood's publicly owned trees.
- Encouraging responsible management and maintenance of privately owned trees.
- Advising Kirkwood's City Council on suggested amendments to current City ordinances and practices that affect the planting, maintenance, and removal of trees on public and private property.

You can request a street tree, view our Tree Selection Guide, and learn about the many ways trees work for us on our page on the City's Website: [www.kirkwoodmo.org/UrbanForestry](http://www.kirkwoodmo.org/UrbanForestry).