



VILLAGE OF HUNTLEY
PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

To: All Interested Media Outlets

From: David Johnson, Assistant Village Manager

Re: Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Huntley

Date: July 29, 2008

On Friday, July 25th, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) confirmed the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in the Village of Huntley. This is the first confirmed case of EAB in the Village.

The Village of Huntley Public Works Department will remove the infected tree on July 29th. A survey of all parkway trees will be conducted immediately to determine the number of ash trees and locations. Once the tree survey has been completed, the Village will develop a plan for removing and replacing parkway trees. The Village has been advised by the IDA that this process could take up to a decade or longer to accomplish. Infected ash trees located on private property will be the responsibility of property owners to remove. However, the Village must be notified of the removal so it can be documented to ensure proper removal procedures were followed.

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a small, metallic green, non-native invasive pest whose larvae feast on the trunks of ash trees thereby cutting off their ability to transport nutrients and ultimately causing the tree's decline. Ash trees can be infested with EAB for a few years before the tree begins to demonstrate any signs of EAB infestation. Symptoms of EAB include canopy dieback, D-shaped exit holes, shoots sprouting from the tree trunks and S-shaped larval galleries underneath the bark.

Ash tree owners may ask about treatment options in order to avoid removing their trees; however, the only guaranteed method to control Emerald Ash Borer is to remove the host tree(s). When considering usage of insecticidal control, one should weigh the value of the tree against the cost of treatment.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture certainly supports a tree owner's right to determine for themselves whether a pesticide treatment is appropriate in their specific circumstance," Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau Manager of Environmental Programs Warren Goetsch said. "Tree owners are encouraged to thoroughly research the various treatment options currently available and carefully weigh the costs associated with the required repeated treatments. Please be advised, however, that treatment of an ash tree will not guarantee that a specific tree might eventually be required to be removed."

Under the provisions of the State of Illinois' Pest and Plant Disease Act, as well as the Nuisance Declaration issued in July 2006, the state has the authority to order the removal of any tree infested with the Emerald Ash Borer, regardless of whether it has been previously treated with a pesticide or not. The state has not exercised this authority to date, as all Emerald Ash Borer-related tree removals have been done on a voluntary basis.

Village staff members will help verify suspect sighting of EAB. It is very important for area residents to be aware and vigilant in inspecting their ash trees for this pest. If you suspect you may have found adult or larval form of this insect, contact the Village of Huntley Public Works Department at 847-669-3450.

For the latest information regarding EAB in Illinois, please visit www.illinoiseab.com

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