



# EAB PREPARATION CHECKLIST FOR NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a tree-killing non-native pest that was first detected in New Jersey in 2014. Although initial findings occurred in Somerset, Mercer, and Burlington Counties, it is expected to spread throughout the state in coming years. This checklist helps municipalities prepare.

## 1. Collaborate & Plan



## 2. Take Action



## 3. Decide



## 4. Educate



### FORM AN EAB WORKING GROUP

Bring together key players in your municipality such as Shade Tree Commissions, Environmental Commissions, Parks and Recreation, Planning, Township Forester, and Department of Public Works, Green Teams. The group will define roles and responsibilities for EAB preparedness. Identify someone to be a "champion" to keep momentum going.



### DEVELOP AN EAB PLAN

Your Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) should address EAB mitigation or amend a current CFMP to address EAB mitigation. Contact NJ State Forest Service's Community Forestry Program for more information on CFMPs 609-633-2320 [www.communityforestry.nj.gov](http://www.communityforestry.nj.gov) View list of Approved Foresters [www.forestry.nj.gov](http://www.forestry.nj.gov)



### DETERMINE YOUR EAB MANAGEMENT ZONE

Visit [emeraldashborer.nj.gov](http://emeraldashborer.nj.gov) to find your EAB Management Zone and review recommendations. There are three management zones in New Jersey. Your zone depends on how close you are to a known infestation. Recommendations for woodlot owners and homeowners have been developed for each zone.



### COMPLETE AN INVENTORY

To plan effectively, know how many ash trees are present and their size, location, and condition. There are several ways to inventory. While surveying, affix ash ID tags to ash trees with high foot traffic.



### SURVEY FOR EAB

A late winter windshield survey is an efficient way to look for infestations, when bark flecking (evidence of woodpecker activity), is visible at the tops of the trees. In the summer, look for signs of crown dieback, bark cracks, and epicormic branches at the base and trunk.



### NOTIFY WOODLAND OWNERS

Residents who have more than five acres of woodland should work with an approved forester to develop a forest management plan that specifically addresses EAB, Wetlands and Flood Hazard Areas, and mitigation. View a list of foresters at [www.forestry.nj.gov](http://www.forestry.nj.gov)



### TREAT OR REMOVE ASH

Identify high-value ash trees to preserve through chemical treatment, as well as trees that will need to be removed. You may be able to complete this step during your inventory. View a list of wood utilizers at [www.forestry.nj.gov](http://www.forestry.nj.gov)



### BUDGET FOR THE FUTURE

Consider treatment, removal, and replacement costs. Use the EAB Cost Calculator to help estimate these costs <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/treecomputer/>



### DON'T PLANT EAB HOST TREES

Every host tree you plant now will need to be treated or removed when EAB arrives in your municipality. Currently known host trees include ash and white fringetree. Replant host trees removed with non-host species minimally at a 1:1 ratio.



### HOLD A PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

Everyone will be affected when EAB arrives. Residents, homeowners, and woodland owners should know what to expect and the options available. View a list Certified Tree Experts that serve your municipality that residents can hire at [www.njtreeexperts.org](http://www.njtreeexperts.org)



### HOLD A FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

Involve municipal staff as well as others who manage trees. Go over ash identification and signs of EAB, especially bark flecking caused by woodpecker activity.



### MAKE EAB INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Provide a link to [www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov) on the municipal website, in the municipal newsletter, and on municipal social media accounts. Download printable fact sheets from and make available at the municipal office.

### More information:

[www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov)

This document was adapted from a UNHCE (University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension) document, Emerald Ash Borer Preparation Checklist for New Hampshire Towns and Cities 2015. NJ EAB Task Force oversaw and approved all updates and changes.

Emerald Ash Borer Task Force

