

emeraldashborer ***frequentlyaskedquestions***

What is the Emerald Ash Borer?

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a highly destructive invasive insect that attacks and kills all species of Ash trees in North America. EAB has been declared an invasive alien species by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and is therefore subject to quarantine.

Where did EAB originate from?

Introduced from Asia in the early 1990's, but not discovered in the Detroit and Windsor areas until 2002, it is believed that the insect was brought into North America via wooden packing crates.

How long has it been in the City?

EAB was first identified in Mississauga in 2008. Since that time Forestry staff has continuously monitored its population growth and movement throughout the City.

How did it travel so quickly throughout southwestern Ontario?

EAB has spread rapidly due to human intervention, primarily the transportation of infested firewood or Ash tree nursery stock. All of southwestern Ontario is under an imposed quarantine and the movement of any Ash product outside this area is prohibited. The regulated area, as defined by the CFIA, can be found [here](#).

Where in the City is it located?

Data collated from EAB traps and individual tree inspections in 2012 indicate that EAB is now located within all Wards and that the insect population continues to increase and spread throughout Mississauga and adjacent Municipalities.

How many Ash trees are in Mississauga?

Mississauga's urban forest consists of approximately 2.1 million trees located on both public and private lands; with approximately half (1 million) of which are privately owned. Ash species represent a significant component (approximately 10%) of the tree canopy on both public and private land. The number of City-owned Ash trees include:

- 23,311 street trees;
- approximately 23,000 park trees; and,
- approximately 70,000 trees in woodlands and natural areas.

What is the treatment criteria?

Based on current best practice, Ash trees that meet the criteria below will be candidates for treatment:

- 20 cm or greater in diameter
- Overall health and structure
- Location
- Level of EAB infestation

How much does the Active Management Plan cost?

The Active Management option allows for the preservation of a percentage of City-owned Ash trees on streets and in parks, but not within woodlands. The Active Management Plan will cost an estimated \$51 million over the next nine to ten years based on available treatment options. This includes the cost to treat trees that meet the City's established criteria and remove and replace dead or heavily infested Ash trees.

How is the City funding the EAB Active Management Plan?

Without funding support from the provincial or federal government, the City has implemented a Special Purpose Levy to generate \$2.8 million each year over the next nine to ten years. The Special Purpose Levy will have an impact of 0.8 per cent on the City's portion of the tax bill and 0.25 per cent on the total tax bill resulting in an increase of \$2.31 per \$100,000 of residential assessment.

Why is the City implementing a tax levy?

Emerald Ash Borer is an unplanned expense and the City does not have the funding in place to support the large scale treatment program that is required to protect the Ash tree canopy. In order to pay for the treatment we have to pass this cost onto residents in a fiscally responsible manner. By implementing the levy over the next nine to ten years we are able to minimize the impact to homeowners while saving these important neighbourhood trees.

How many City-owned trees will be treated?

The Active Management Plan will see approximately 20,000 City-owned street and park trees treated over the next ten years. The final number of City-owned Ash trees to be treated will be determined after each street and park Ash tree is inspected.

What is the cost to our tree canopy if no action is taken?

Without treatment it is estimated that the majority of Ash trees within Mississauga will be infested by EAB within five years (2017) with close to 100% mortality within ten years (2022).

Will the City be treating trees on private property?

Private property owners and residents will be responsible for all costs associated with the treatment or removal of Ash trees located on their property. The City will not treat privately owned Ash trees or provide financial or staff resources to remove dead or declining Ash trees on private property.

What product is the City using to protect its trees?

The City of Mississauga will use a Canadian-made product called TreeAzin™. TreeAzin™ is a biological insecticide, made from a natural product from the extract of [neem trees](#), developed by the Canadian Forest Service and [BioForest Technologies](#).

Can I purchase TreeAzin™ to protect trees on my property?

TreeAzin™ can only be administered by certified professionals. Please contact a certified arborist for more details on the product or visit [BioForest Technologies](#) for a list of certified applicators.