

# **ASH TREE REPORT**

**FOR**

**LONG BRANCH CITY**

**Monmouth County, New Jersey**

*Prepared by:*



*1460 Route 9 South  
Howell, NJ 07731*

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**Shari M. Spero, LTE #465**

*Licensed Tree Expert*

*February 4, 2019*

## **Ash Tree Report Long Branch, New Jersey**

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### Introduction

Our office was tasked with performing a windshield survey of all ash trees along right-of-ways (ROWs) throughout the City. During the survey, Shari Spero, a licensed tree expert (LTE), noted all ash that have the potential to fall within these right-of-ways, to ensure safe roadways and sidewalks for both pedestrians and motorists.

### Method

Driving through the City and in conjunction with Google Maps street view, observed ash trees were marked on a street map. If an address was present, this information was taken as well for possible future noticing by the City. Both of these items have been included within this report.

### Results

A total of seventy (70) ash trees were observed with approximately 40% on school and park properties. Ash trees found in the City were either installed as part of a school, park, commercial building or at the frontage of residential properties, with no more than four (4) properties in a row having ash. None of the ash identified had signs of infestation. These are positive findings, as the ash trees are in such small pockets that it is possible the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) might not be able to reach and colonize the City's ash trees.

### Discussion

Due to the low percentage of ash trees in the City, any ash in healthy condition between 15"-30" +/- diameter breast height (DBH) should be treated with a systemic insecticide. This will prevent EAB from infesting the trees. Treatments should be performed every two (2) to three (3) years to maintain the ash trees' health. A licensed arborist should be consulted for this option.

The ash trees found at the schools and parks are all young and smaller than the treatment option recommends. Consideration should be given to replanting projects to install and establish other species now if the ash trees should succumb to EAB in the future. At this time, all young ash trees in healthy condition should be monitored for signs of the beetle with no other recommended action to be taken for them.

## **Ash Tree Report Long Branch, New Jersey**

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### Conclusion

In conclusion, the current ash tree distribution observed does not pose an immediate problem to the City. Our office recommends providing treatment to specific ash trees as funds are available and continue observing those recently planted for signs of infestation or decline. As the City moves forward with planting plans and installations, it may be prudent to supplement plantings around existing ash trees in preparation for the potential removal of these trees in the future.

Enclosed within this report, please find the following:

- Location map indicating all ash trees observed within the City right-of-ways
- Database of approximate addresses where ash trees were observed for the City's records
- Notice letter and EAB informational flyer that can be distributed to property owners and inform them of potential EAB risks

# ASH TREE MAP

# LONG BRANCH CITY, N.J.



## ASH TREE LOCATION MAP

**LONG BRANCH CITY  
MONMOUTH COUNTY  
NEW JERSEY**

### Legend

- Observed Ash Trees
- Long Branch Parcels
- Long Branch Boundary

Source: NJDEP BUREAU OF GIS, NJOGIS



**CONSULTING & MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS**

3141 BORDENTOWN AVENUE, PARLIN, N.J. 08859  
1468 ROUTE 9 SOUTH HOWELL, N.J. 07731  
3759 ROUTE 1 SOUTH SUITE 106, MONMOUTH JUNCTION, NJ 08852  
ONE MARKET STREET SUITE 1F, CAMDEN, NJ 08102

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DATE	SCALE	LAST REVISED	CREATED BY
2/4/2019	1 Inch = 1,000 Feet	NA	AM

Streets/houses with Ash trees	Quantity	Notes
387 Cleveland Avenue	1	at parking lot at corner with Prospect St
344 Broadway	1	near entrance to Town Hall
#144, #142, #140 Chelton Avenue	5	Also house at corner with Long Branch Ave (unsure of address)
Hearn Avenue	4	Corner w Chelton #297?, #119 Rosewood, #125 Elmwood, #123 Joline
#354 Morris Avenue	2	
#294 Brighton Avenue	2	corner w Hoey St, unsure of house #
West Avenue/Schools	8	High school/Middle school property
Bath Avenue	2	Middle School property
Garfield Rd	3	unsure of address, at the corner, fronting Ocean Avenue.
#39 Lippincott Ave	1	
Spruce Street	4	Long Branch Covenant Church #355 Joline Ave
#256 6th Avenue	2	
688 Marine Place	2	trees in back yard
Long Branch Ave	1	corner with Airsdale Ave, Manahasset Creek Park by tennis courts
465 Dewey St	1	
Joline Ave	1	side yard of house on corner with Florence Ave; tree across from LBSA pkg lot entrance
Overlook Ave	3	#242; #855 Woodgate Ave? Unsure of house #, on corner, next to #242 Overlook
Overlook Ave/Van Court Ave/Fairfield Ave	8	2 ash on Overlook, 5 on Van Court, 1 on Fairfield Ave @ Takanassee Lake Park property
West End Court	1	in parking lot @ West End Village Car Wash
Alumni Drive	6	young ash @ High School
48 Passey Gardens	1	unsure of address, last house before brick apts and parking lot
West Avenue	3	West Ave Self Storage property
Willow Avenue	2	West Ave Self Storage property
473 West Street	1	
Liberty Street	5	at parking lot Jerry Morgan Memorial Park fields, across from fields of Gregory Elem. School
	70	

February 4, 2019

**Re: Ash Tree Notice  
Emerald Ash Borer**

Dear Property Owner;

This letter is to inform you of an invasive tree pest called the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), which has spread into Monmouth County. It will kill 99.7% of all existing Ash trees.

**Ash trees have been identified on your street and/or in your yard, which may be subject to EAB in the coming years. However, it does not currently appear to be present in Long Branch. The city has small pockets of ash trees which might also help in reducing the spread of the beetle due to further distances it would need to travel to the next group of ash.**

EAB is a great concern to all residents because:

- Insects bore into host trees and quickly kill the trees within a few years
- Dead Ash trees are very brittle and will fall apart; very unsafe
- Ash will all succumb to the beetle at approximately the same time
- Massive tree failures may create an increase in cost of tree removal
- Sudden increase in street noise and heat from loss of shade
- Potential storm water management issues
- Decrease in aesthetics of properties

The Environmental Commission would like to encourage residents to be proactive and prepare for the EAB threat. There are two (2) options to consider: removal of Ash trees or systemic insecticide treatments. As mentioned above, it does not yet appear EAB has found its way to Long Branch. Treatment efforts for ash trees in good condition are strongly encouraged. Further details can be found on the back of this letter.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Name  
Chair, Environmental Commission

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive pest from Asia and was first found in Michigan in 2002. Since its discovery in the United States, it has killed millions of Ash trees in that area and has since spread into New Jersey in May 2014 when it was discovered in Somerset County. The Forest Service has been monitoring its spread throughout the state. Its presence has already been noted throughout the county.

This insect bores into Ash trees, killing them quickly and leaving behind a dead brittle tree that is very dangerous to remove. EAB is a very aggressive feeder with few natural predators. Once the beetle has infested the tree, it is typically dead within three (3) years. By the time an EAB infestation is identified, it is often too late to save the host tree.

Ash trees have a compound leaf with 5-7 leaflets and a distinct diamond pattern bark. Just like Maple trees, Ash trees have opposite branching habits. The leaves themselves will turn either yellow (Green Ash) or purplish-red (White Ash) in the fall. An internet search will aid in properly identifying your tree.

If the Ash trees on your property are in poor condition, the trees should be removed as soon as possible, even before EAB has been confirmed. Once the beetle has infested your neighborhood, all the trees will decline and eventually die at the same time. As the demand to remove the trees quickly intensifies, the removal cost to do so might increase. Removal costs might also increase due to the dangerous nature of removing these brittle trees and the amount of wood that will need to be disposed of properly. It is recommended to budget for these removals now. Many tree service companies will offer bulk rate pricing should multiple residents combine their efforts and proceed with this option.

On the other hand, if your tree is in good condition and between 15"-30" diameter, treatment might be an option. Ash trees can be injected with a systemic insecticide by a licensed tree expert or technician in the spring, once every 2-3 years. This treatment will need to continue for approximately 15 years or more, to ensure the pest has been fully eradicated from the area. Again, residents can combine their efforts and schedule bulk treatment, which should reduce the cost of the treatment.

Unfortunately, these are the only viable options to deal with EAB at this time. We strongly recommend reviewing your options carefully and understanding the risks and financial burden associated with any course of action you may choose. Ultimately, when the infestation occurs, the trees will be required to be removed as they will be deemed hazardous. However, a proactive decision is your choice, whether you decide to remove the tree earlier or treat it with insecticides.

# Signs and Symptoms of the Emerald Ash Borer

Mary Wilson, MSU Extension. Eric Rebek, Michigan State University Dept. of Entomology

## Adult



Michigan State University



Michigan State University

- Bright, metallic green (Figs. A, B).
- 1/2 inch long, flattened back (Figs. A, B).
- Purple abdominal segments beneath wing covers.

## Larva



D. Cappaert, MSU

- Creamy white, legless (Fig. C).
- Flattened, bell-shaped body segments (Fig. C).
- Terminal segment bears a pair of small appendages.

## Canopy Dieback



E. Rebek, MSU



E. Rebek, MSU

- Begins in top one-third of canopy (Fig. D).
- Progresses until tree is bare (Fig. E).

## Epicormic Shoots



J. Smith, USDA APHIS PPO



J. Smith, USDA APHIS PPO

- Sprouts grow from roots and trunk (Figs. F, G).
- Leaves often larger than normal.

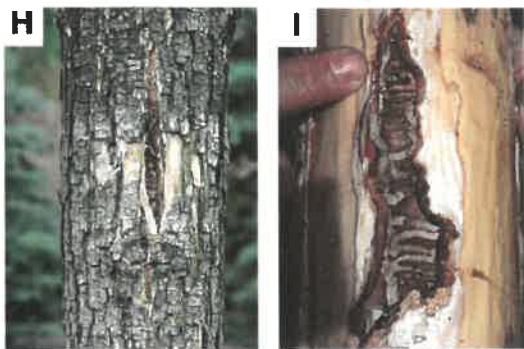


MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION





## Bark Splitting

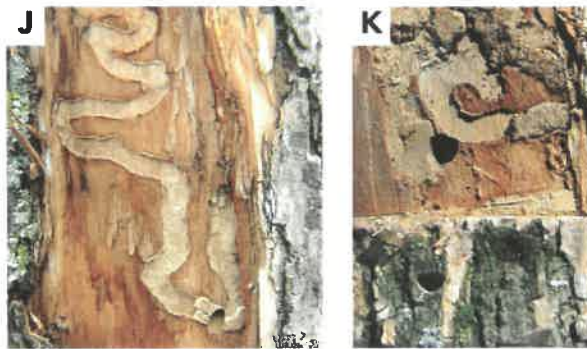


J. Smith, USDA APHIS PPQ

A. Storer, Mich. Tech. Univ.

- Vertical fissures on bark (Fig. H) due to callous tissue formation (Fig. I).
- Galleries exposed under bark split.

## Serpentine Galleries and D-shaped Exit Holes

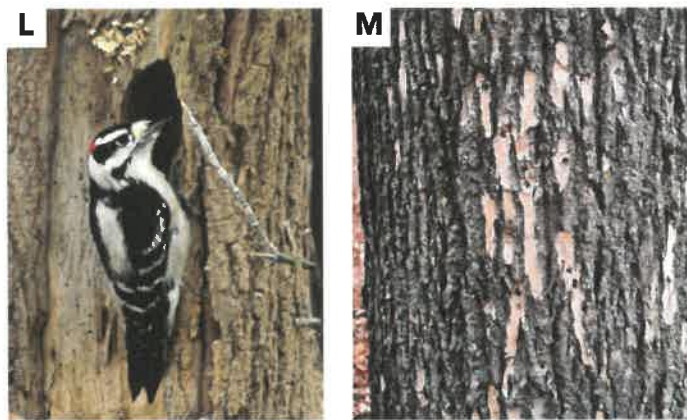


D. Cappaert, MSU

D. Cappaert, MSU

- Larval feeding galleries typically serpentine (Fig. J).
- Galleries weave back and forth across the woodgrain.
- Packed with frass (mix of sawdust and excrement).
- Adults form D-shaped holes upon emergence (Fig. K).

## Increased Woodpecker Activity/Damage



D. Cappaert, MSU

Karen D'Angelo, MSUE

- Several woodpecker species (Fig. L) feed on EAB larvae/pupae.
- Peck outer bark while foraging (Fig. M).
- Create large holes when extracting insects (Fig. M).