

Decision guide for managing ash trees



Start here: inventory your ash trees

- How many ash trees do you have?
- Where are they located?



Determine if your ash trees are worth saving

- Are they healthy?
- Are they at least 30 inches in circumference (10 inches in diameter) at chest height?
- Do they show no or few signs of emerald ash borer infestation?
- Are they in a good location?
- Are they valuable to you?

Decide: Are you interested in saving your ash trees?

Yes

No

No

I don't know



Monitor and make a plan

- Ash trees will eventually become infested and need to be removed
- Monitor for signs of emerald ash borer and make a plan for removing your trees.
- Consider planting a tree or two to replace any you remove. Plant the right tree for the location, and plant a variety of trees.

Yes

Work with a certified arborist to treat your trees

- Treat ash trees that are within five miles of an emerald ash borer infestation
- Hire a certified arborist to do a trunk injection of emamectin benzoate (commercial name Tree-age)
- Treat trees every two to three years in late spring
- Cost is typically \$100 to \$200 per tree, depending on the tree's size



Hire a tree care professional

- Hire an ISA-certified arborist. Arborists can help you assess, treat, remove, and replant trees. Find arborists near you at treesaregood.org.
- Get at least two estimates.
- Ask for references and insurance.
- Tip: Work with your neighbors to seek discounts for managing your trees all at once.

Identifying ash trees

Look for the following characteristics to determine if your tree is an ash tree:



Branches grow directly opposite from one another.



Compound leaves, or multiple leaves on one stalk.



Bark with diamond-shaped pattern.



Seeds that are oar-shaped and typically hang in clusters.

Measuring your trees

Measure the distance around the trunk at about 4.5 feet off the ground, or about chest height. This gives you the circumference. To get diameter, divide the circumference by 3.



Signs of emerald ash borer infestation

The following signs may indicate that an ash tree is infested with emerald ash borer.



Leaves on the top or on one part of the tree start dying.



Sprouts growing from the roots or base of the tree indicating that it is stressed.



Increased woodpecker activity with sections of the bark stripped away.



Adult beetles leaving the tree create D-shaped exit holes.



Larvae feeding on the tree's tissue leave a serpentine pattern underneath the bark.