

Emerald Ash Borer Report and Strategic Response Proposal

Indiana

June 2011

Presented By: IndyAsh.com

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All Untreated Ash Trees Will Die. Over 75 Million Ash Trees Killed – 7.5 Billion at Risk Treatment is Affordable - 2 Year Protection per Treatment

- Problem

All untreated Ash trees are at high risk of being infested by the Emerald Ash Borer and killed within a very short time period. Ash trees provide a significant economic and environmental contribution to the local area. The bug enters the tree in its upper canopy and feeds on the vascular tissue behind the bark. Eventually the beetles eat enough tissue that the tree can no longer transport water, nutrients and minerals to its branches and leaves and the canopy dies off. The tricky thing about this pest is that it will feed for a number of years undetected and then once the canopy begins to show signs of die back, major damage has already occurred in the vascular tissues, the tree is beyond treatment and the only solution at that point is to remove the tree at a cost often equivalent to 15 - 20 years of treatment.

- Solution/Recommendation

We recommend a combination of removal and treatment. The immediate cost of removal is much higher, often 4 to 8 times more expensive! We recommend to remove all small trees (5 inch diameter and smaller) and treat all healthy larger trees (Greater than 5 inch diameter). By removing the small trees, we narrow the field in order to be able to focus our attention over a longer period of time in order to achieve a higher success rate from our treatment efforts. As well as creating a generation gap which will help the containment of the infestation. We focus our attention on treating the trees that are already established. Treatments will have to be repeated every ~~2 years~~ until the infestation declines. Ideally we would do this in every inch of our area, however and realistically we have to be selective for one reason or another. Areas that do not receive attention and treatment will most probably become infested and the Ash trees in that area will die, decay and fall apart. So in building a strategy we would make the most public areas the highest priority and the more remote, unused, and uninhabited areas the last priority in our treatment strategy.

- Treatment Details

We treat trees using Tree-Age, the **ONLY** solution on the market that has a multiple year residual effect. This treatment is administered as a trunk injection making it 100% eco friendly and socially acceptable. Treatment solution is injected through the bark, directly into the trees' vascular tissue, then as the tree transpires and carries water mixed with the treatment solution to every part of the trees' canopy and woody living material. As the EAB feed on either the leaves or the inner wood, they die.

- Why Are Ash Important Enough to Save?

1) Economic Value

- A healthy 12inch Diameter Ash Tree adds approx \$1,500 to property value. A 24inch Ash adds approx \$3,600
 - Each 12inch Ash tree provides approx \$60 savings & value to the average home in Indiana. These savings are through the shade that cuts cooling costs, the canopies that provide wind protection, the roots that absorb waters that would flood our home.
 - Labor and Lumber. A portion of Indianas' economy is dependent the labor positions provided through harvesting Ash trees and there are many Indiana based mills that rely on Ash wood to sustain their business
- If these trees are not treated, they will die and will be forced to be removed at an immediate cost much significantly higher than the cost of treatment.

2) Environmental Value

- Air purification. The established Ash trees on your property are the main filters and purifiers of the air that you breathe at home
- A wide range of wildlife are dependent on the 'Helicopter' like seeds that Ash trees produce as their main food source.
- Ash are one of the main Indiana creek side trees. Their role is to provide climate control to the water and food to the wildlife that lives around it. Without these trees, water temperatures will rise and creek beds will dry and stay dry.. and most life activity in these areas will cease.
- Ground water purification and circulation. The roots absorb the often 'poisoned' waters from the ground and filter the poisons out through transpiration to release cleaner waters back into he earth
- Aesthetic Value. A beautiful tree on your property is a beautiful tree on your property. When you cut it down, only a bare space remains

- Capabilities/How much work we can handle

We have a competent and certified staff that has been treating trees for Emerald Ash Borer since 2007. We are modular in nature and can expand by adding registered treatment technicians to accommodate any size project.

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Property Assessment and Treatment Available. Contact for Pricing/Assessment.