



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Awareness and Prevention

Town of Okotoks Parks
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EAB is an invasive insect that threatens all species of ash tree. The beetle, native to Asia, was introduced to North America in untreated shipping crates. EAB has killed millions of ash trees in eastern Canada and is now in Manitoba.

Maintaining tree health is critical for EAB prevention. Properly pruning deadwood, applying mulch to roots and watering during dry periods will improve health and help trees resist attack. Look for symptoms of decline (small, yellow leaves, excessive deadwood), irregular notches in leaf edges, cracking and sloughing bark, excessive water sprouts on trunk/branches and high woodpecker activity. Insects are primarily host specific and feed on only one type of tree. It is important to diversify your yard by planting different trees to ensure your landscape isn't threatened by a specific insect or disease.

To prevent the spread of EAB, it is essential not to transport firewood/branches of ash (or any tree species) as beetles may be living in the bark. This is the primary way that devastating invasive pest species are spread. The best practice for firewood is to use local supplies.

If you suspect an ash is showing symptoms or you need more information, contact the Horticulture Hotline to speak with the Town of Okotoks Urban Forester.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO TRANSPORT FIREWOOD IN OR OUT OF THE PROVINCE