

# Hobson West Homeowners Association

## Emerald Ash Borer Strategy

The ash trees in Naperville have been infested with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) for a couple of years now. You probably read about the Naperville **Park District** destroying 30 trees in the Hobson West Park (old Soper property) a couple of weeks ago. And lately the **City** of Naperville destroyed some parkway trees in the subdivision. If you were a YahooGroup subscriber you are aware of the problem which Paula Fraser summarized in our first article in a series of 'Homeowner Briefs'.

The bottom line is that for trees on our property, we have choices – but need to make them now!

Step 1) **Research:** The City of Naperville has provided excellent information - <http://www.naperville.il.us/eab.aspx> . “See the document Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from Emerald Ash Borer for the most up to date research on Emerald Ash borer control options and effectiveness.”

Step2) **Decide what is best for your situation** – nothing, preventative measures or destroy. Signs of infestation include dead branches up high in the tree and wood pecker activity. **However, the probability is that all of the trees in Hobson West have some degree of infestation.**

### Three Options for Your Ash Trees

1. **Do Nothing** -Not taking any action assures that the EAB will destroy Ash tree(s) within a few years. But it does delay cash outlay for a while, with the caveat that tree service companies usually charge more to take down a dead tree due to additional risk to the 'climbers' who have to deal with brittle branches.
2. **Cut down small trees** now, avoid the expense and plant new. For example, it may cost \$ 575 or more to take down a good sized Ash tree, but upwards of \$ 150-700 to treat each year.
3. **Treatment** - Homeowners can treat trees 15" or less using products available at local home improvement stores. Over 15" it is highly recommended to have the tree inspected by an arborist to determine if it is worth saving.

### Preventative Treatment Measures

#### **i. Treat Trees Yourself - Less than 15" in Diameter**

Homeowners can purchase insecticide locally. This will need to be done at least annually around May. The retail products have the same active ingredient as available to certified applicators, but probably will be of little if any benefit to trees exceeding 15" in diameter and cannot be injected.

(TIP: To get the diameter, measure around the tree at breast height [circumference] and divide by3).

The product is a soil drench. Treat when the leaves start coming out in accordance with the directions – you will need about one ounce per inch of diameter. Only professionals are authorized to do soil injections. Soil Drench product is available at Lowes, Home Depot, Ace and Costco. (Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub Insect Control, \$ 19 for 32 oz, \$27.49 for 64 oz Costco)

You can, of course, at your discretion have any trees serviced by arborists or certified applicators.

ii. **Professional Treatment - Trees Wider than 15" in Diameter**

There are several products with various active ingredients which can be applied by professionals. Referring to the information on the Naperville website:

“If residents have a **tree care company** provide services or remove a tree, residents should ask if the company has current certificates of insurance, employs certified arborists and has current references. It is recommended residents get more than one estimate to help make an informed decision. Tree owners are encouraged to thoroughly research the various treatment options currently available and carefully weigh the costs associated with the required repeated treatments. Treatment of an ash tree will not guarantee that a specific tree might not eventually be required to be removed.”

**Soil Drenches:** The active ingredient is Imidacloprid. The formulation from Xytect™ is applied once a year, the Merit™ is applied twice. Inconsistent results, especially on the larger diameter trees.

**Trunk Injections:** Three kinds of active ingredients – Imidacloprid, Emamectin benzoate and Bidrin. The imidacloprid formulation from IMA-jet seemed to provide higher levels of control than from Imicide. On the other hand, a single injection with Emamectin benzoate from TREE-age provided excellent control for at least two years at rates of over 90% reduction of larvae.

“**Optimal timing** of trunk injections occurs after trees have leafed out in spring but before EAB eggs have hatched, or generally between mid-May and mid-June. Best results are usually obtained by injecting trees in the morning when soil is moist but not saturated. Uptake will be slowed by hot afternoon temperatures and dry soil conditions.”

“Treatment of public and private ash trees will need to be documented as to what chemical was used, when it was treated, and by whom. These records will be collected and stored in a city database. If you decide to treat your ash trees, please complete the [Emerald Ash Borer Treatment Form](#) and return it to the Department of Public Works each time the tree is treated.” Ask if the company you use is providing documentation to the city.

Many homeowners have expressed interest in trying to get a group discount from one or more tree service companies. Our investigation on pricing from a few local companies found some willing to work with homeowners on cost. But, there is more involved than just pricing. Each tree needs to be inspected to assure that the tree is less than 50% damaged, and is a good candidate for treatment. You probably would not want to treat a severely damaged in your yard anyway. Talk to your neighbors and form a group of about 10 trees, then call for a firm discounted price.

Prices seem to vary with the tree service company. Many companies were not able to handle more than they already have in their pipeline. A couple of companies suggested that discounts were possible if a group of homeowners with at least ten trees requiring treatment would call and arrange for inspection. Remember, pricing depends on the size of tree and type of insecticide recommended or used by that company. Special offers may be discontinued at any time.

Piper and Sons (630 898-6050) suggested group (10+) tree service discounted to: \$ 85 for a 6-10" diameter tree; \$ 96 for 11-14"; \$ 117 for 15-19"; \$ 152 for 20-24"; \$ 173 for 25-28"; \$ 227 for 29-32"; and \$263 for 33-36".

Joe Krupke, Davey Tree Expert Co (630 293-9336) quoted \$ 4/inch, \$ 110 minimum, requiring two soil injection treatments – June and fall. \$ 14/inch for Tree-Age trunk injection, followed by soil injection in fall. Requires 7+ homeowners for a 10% discount.

Carl Shultz (630 851-1898) discount 10% if servicing a total of 200 inches. Using Xytect soil injection up to 14-15". For larger trees, about \$ 10/inch using Tree-Age, if several were done at the same time.

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