

Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan

Sample, offered to Maine Municipalities by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry –
Maine Forest Service

What is an EAB Management Plan?

A written document outlining a municipality's objective and the approaches it will use to meet the current or anticipated impact of the Emerald Ash Borer on its urban and community tree and forest resource.

It offers a blueprint that administrators and residents can follow with a high degree of confidence, rationality, and order.

Maine's Current EAB situation

EAB has been found in northern Maine, York Co., and Portland and is steadily spreading from infestations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Quebec. Further, movement is aided by unintentional spread through the transport of firewood. If not already present, it is increasingly likely it will be found in your community in the next several years. The Maine Forest Service EAB management strategy will include projects to slow the spread and minimize economic, environmental and social impacts. This is true of all infested areas. For communities this has important consequences:

The possibility that EAB will be discovered in your area or in your community is increasing.

The state will not remove ash trees as part of an eradication program.

Why do you need an EAB management plan?

Whether you are in an EAB infested area now or will be at some future time, you need to determine those activities that must be performed to address the threat to your urban forest resource.

By developing, communication, and implementing a management plan, you will be acting in a reasonable and responsible fashion to the crisis.

How to use this document

The following are action elements that a community may include in their EAB Management Plan. A short italicized example follows a description of each action element.

Helpful hints:

Not all action elements will be applicable for every community.

Choose elements that address your community's needs.

Action elements that should be included in every community's management plan are marked with an asterisk (*).

Action Element : Title

Identify the plan and place it in context with other municipal policies

Title example

An Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan for the Town of _____

As approved by Town Council on September 1, 2019

Action Element: Purpose

Declare the purpose and intent of the plan and how it affects public health, safety, and welfare.

Purpose example

By implementing the provisions in this management plan, the Town is attempting to mitigate the disruption to its urban and community forest caused by the pending infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Taking a proactive approach to this invasion will enable the Town to address public and private needs in an efficient and effective manner.

The town will endeavor to distribute the costs associated with certain ash tree death over a manageable time period, as well as lessen the social and economic impact that such an extensive loss will have on the quality of life in our community.

Action Element: Scope

Define the area and land ownerships where the plan applies.

Scope Example

This plan applies throughout the Town on all public properties where ash trees are currently growing, as well as on private properties where such trees may negatively impact public rights-of-ways or other public properties.

Action Element: Administration

Identify the municipal agency responsible for ensuring implementation and compliance, including managing contractors.

Administration example

The Town Arborist, through the Parks and Recreation Department, will be responsible for implementing this plan and seeing that its provisions are carried out. The Town arborist will manage all contracted work.

Action Element: Definitions

Define any technical terms that may be misunderstood or need clarification.

Definitions Example

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)

The diameter (inches) of a trunk cross section measured at 4 ½' above the ground.

Compliance Agreement

Official Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF) and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) approval for moving regulated materials outside a quarantine zone.

Quarantine Zone

DACF-designated area restricting the movement of regulated materials.

Regulated materials

All ash wood and non-coniferous firewood

Action Element: *Ash Treatment and Removal

Inventory all publicly owned ash trees and prioritize a treatment and removal plan.

Ash Treatment and Removal Example

The Town will conduct an inventory of all ash trees growing on its rights-of-way, in parks, and on other municipal properties. For each ash tree, its location, size, and condition will be collected. An estimated budget and timeframe will be generated for the desired treatment and removal regime, based on the inventory data. The Town will systematically treat and/or remove all its ash trees that will potentially impact public ways or properties. Tree removal will be prioritized with hazardous trees removed first followed by those that are no longer assets to the community (dead, dying, diseased, or poorly sited). Valuable and vigorous trees greater than 20 inches DBH will be treated with approved insecticides to treat existing infestations. On-going treatment will be necessary to protect trees for multiple years. Utility contractors will be encouraged to remove all ash within their easements as part of their normal line clearance activities. An ash tree inventory spreadsheet or database will be created, updated, and used to prioritize and record the removal, treatment, or status of each tree. See appendix A for the Managing Emerald Ash Borer: Decision Guide.

Action Element: Monitoring

Identify possible sources of EAB importation into the community such as campgrounds, nurseries, and firewood dealers; and monitor nearby ash trees for infestation.

Monitoring example

Strategically located non-asset ash trees will be annually selected and prepared as detection trees. These trees will be set up before May 1st and removed for examination in September/October. If an EAB infestation is discovered, a delimitation survey of the surrounding area will be made and acted upon. All ash wood from pruning or removals shall be inspected for EAB by looking for D-shaped exit holes and removing the bark to find larval galleries. All possible sources of artificial EAB importation into the community such as campgrounds, nurseries, firewood dealers, and sawmills will be monitored. See Appendix B for list of possible importation sources.

Action Element: Wood Utilization and Disposal

For towns within a quarantine - spell out each step necessary for Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry compliance. Develop a wood utilization and disposal strategy.

Wood utilization and disposal example

The town will develop a plan to use the wood generated during the removal program. The plan must comply with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry's regulations for handling regulated materials. Wood that cannot be used for lumber, turning, firewood, chips, or mulch will be disposed of according to DACF specifications. Refer to Appendix C for a list of companies with DACF compliance agreements. See Appendix D for the Town wood utilization and disposal strategy.

Action Element: Communications

Develop a communications plan by outlining and prioritizing target groups, your intended messages, and possible media delivery systems.

Communications Example

*The Town Manager, Town Council, Conservation Commission, and department heads will receive periodic briefings through normal channels.
All media relations will follow normal municipal protocol.*

Action Element: Education

Identify educational needs for staff, residents, and contractors; i.e. tree and pest identification.

Education example

Training for in-house staff, contractors, conservation commissioners, and residents will be held to discuss the pending infestation and to provide ash and EAB identification tips. A page on the town website will be dedicated to municipal response, and resources for homeowners.

Action Element: *Canopy replacement and care

Develop a tree replacement and maintenance strategy based on the inventory, and with an emphasis on species diversity and restoring canopy cover. The replacement strategy should include possible species, locations, stock specifications, planting instructions, and future care information. Include a reasonable time frame.

Canopy replacement and care example

As the budget permits, all removed public ash trees will be replaced with non-host species that will enhance the planting site, are appropriate for the planting site, and add to the diversity and general health of the urban forest. Trees will be planted in accordance with ANSI A300 Tree Care Operations: planting specifications (see appendix E), be in the 1 to 2 1/2 "caliper range and obtained from Maine licensed producers and dealers of nursery stock firms. Plantings will be budget based and prioritized by canopy cover goals as identified by the town arborist. Those areas needing the most trees to reach their goal will be planted first, such as suburban residential, urban residential and

central business districts. No plantings will be made that cannot be adequately maintained. All new plantings will conform to the "10-20-30" tree species diversity rule. See Appendix F for the list of recommended replacement species.

Action Element: Postponed Work

Describe how normal urban forest management activities will be affected and for how long; i.e., pruning cycle, planting projects, leaf pickup.

Postponed work example

While financial, staffing, and equipment resources are focused on the EAB Management Plan some usual services will either be delayed or put on hold indefinitely. The five-year pruning cycle is on hold, as is any defined planting projects not related to canopy restoration as a result of EAB removals.

Action Element: Other Departments

Outline how the lead agency will work cooperatively with other municipal departments such as public works, parks and recreation, community services, finance, etc.

Other Departments example

The Town Arborist will provide bi-weekly briefings to the finance and public works departments. The Parks and Recreation Department will supply vehicles, equipment, field support, and personnel upon request by the Town Arborist through normal channels.

Action Element: *Private Ash Trees

What information, services, or mutual assistance will you provide to residential and commercial properties? Give serious consideration to implementing a tree care company permit system to address work quality and safety issues. Dead and dying ash trees, not promptly removed by the property owner, may pose a safety concern to adjacent private and public sites. Whether handled by combative neighbors through the legal system, or a condemnation process by the municipality, there should be a procedure in place to address these trees.

Private Ash Trees Example

The town will create and maintain an EAB Informational page on the Town website. The town will provide information regarding assistance to property owners in removing dead and dying ash trees. In the spring and fall the town will purchase non-EAB host, large canopy, replacement trees. Residents and businesses interested in acquiring trees at a wholesale price may purchase trees through this program. The Town will provide site selection, planting, and maintenance information to each participant in this program.

Action Element: Contact List

Provide a list of helpful individuals, agencies, or companies, such as the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, Maine Arborists Association, Nurseries, and Arborists, etc.

Contact List Example

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Jan Santerre, Maine Forest Service Urban Forestry Coordinator, jan.santerre@maine.gov

Allison Kanoti, State Entomologist, Allison.m.kanoti@maine.gov

Gary Fish, State Horticulturist, gary.fish@maine.gov

Karen Coluzzi, State Pest Survey Coordinator, karen.l.coluzzi@maine.gov

Oliver Markewicz, District Forester, York County, oliver.markewicz@maine.gov

Maine Arborist Association

www.maine-arborist.org

Licensed arborists

<http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/arborist/ArboristList.shtml>

US Forest Service

Nate Siegert, Entomologist, Nathan.w.siegert@usda.gov

John Parry, Urban Forester, john.parry@usda.gov

Action Element: Hiring an Arborist

Include information for residents and businesses on how to locate and employ qualified tree care contractors.

Hiring an Arborist example

This information will be posted on the Town's EAB website, and hardcopies will be available at all public facilities and forums. (See appendix)

Action Element: Approved Contractors List

Provide a list of arborist firms you feel are competent, qualified, and available based on your specifications, licensing, and referral system.

Approved Contractors' List Example

All commercial companies involved in tree pruning, removal, installation, and wood disposal will require licensing and minimum insurance with the State of Maine. A list of locally licensed and operating firms will be maintained on the Town EAB website and made available through the City Arborist's office.

Action Element: Budget

Identify a budget and timeframe for dealing with all aspects of planning and management related to this issue

Budget example

Inventory

\$8,500

Ash Removal

\$30,000 over next 5 years

Replacement

\$20,000 over the next five years

Wood Disposal

\$2,500

Total

\$63,000

State District Foresters

Oliver Markewicz, MFS, 2281 Alfred Road, Lyman, Maine 04002 Oliver.markewicz@maine.gov	(207) 441-3712
Position vacant, MFS, 536 Waldoboro Road, Jefferson, Maine 04348	(207) 441-2895
Terri Coolong, MFS, P.O. Box 415, Old Town, ME, 04468 Terri.r.coolong@maine.gov	(207) 215-0679
Dan Jacobs, MFS, 2 Forestry Road, Island Falls, ME, 04747 Dan.jacobs@maine.gov	(207) 441-4128
Michael Jensen, MFS, P.O. Box 130, Jonesboro, Maine 04648 Michael.p.jensen@maine.gov	(207) 441-4924
Shane Duigan, MFS, 356 Shaker Rd., Gray, ME, 04039 Shane.p.duigan@maine.gov	(207) 592-1251
Julie Davenport, MFS, PO Box 416, Norridgewock, Maine 04976 Julie.davenport@maine.gov	(207) 592-2238
Position vacant, MFS, PO Box 1107, Greenville, Maine 04441 Adam.cates@maine.gov	(207) 441-4139
Michael Richard, MFS, 131 Bethel Road, West Paris, Maine 04289 Michael.b.richard@maine.gov	(207) 441-3276
Randy Lagasse, MFS, 45 Radar Road, Ashland, Maine 04732 Randy.lagasse@maine.gov	(207) 557-1086

List of Appendices

- A: Managing EAB: Decision Guide
- B: List of Possible importation sources
- C: DACF companies with Compliance agreements
- D: Utilization and Disposal Strategy
- E: ANSI Planting Specifications
- F: Recommended replacement species