**Front Porch Forum and Social Media Posts for Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week**

**May 22nd – 28th, 2022**

***#1: To recruit volunteers to help with a tree tagging event:***

Ash trees have been widely used to replace landscape elms decimated by Dutch elm disease in the middle of the 20th century and have historically been a favorite choice for street trees in Vermont due to the specie’s fast growth and salt tolerance. Ash grow well in disturbed roadsides and hundreds line our back roads.

The 160 million ash trees in Vermont are now threatened by the exotic, invasive pest, the emerald ash borer (EAB), which has been confirmed in five counties in Vermont. In the 34 other states where EAB is present, untreated ash trees usually die within 3-5 years of being infested. Towns and municipalities will need to plan for how to handle these trees. Early identification of infestations can help to slow the spread.

Join us on [DATE/TIME/PLACE] for an Ash tree tagging event and learn how you can help [NAME OF COMMUNITY] prepare to manage for EAB! We will learn how to identify ash trees and signs and symptoms of the emerald ash borer. Come help out and meet your neighbors and your ash trees. Contact [EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER] for more information.

**#2: *To send out immediately before or after a tree tagging event:***

You may notice that several trees [NOTE WHERE] have tags saying “What is this Ash Tree Worth to You?”

How can you help [TOWN NAME] slow the spread of emerald ash borer?

* Learn how to identify ash trees and emerald ash borer signs and symptoms. Visit VTinvasives.org for more information!
* Look at ash trees for signs and symptoms – if you see a suspicious trees submit photos on the ReportIT! button at VTinvasives.org
* Slow the spread: burn firewood as close to the source as possible and do not move it outside of infested areas

**#3 *To send out at the beginning of Ash Tree Awareness Week:***

**Do you know your Ash from your elbow?**

Ash trees are everywhere; they are the original native Vermonter. Did you know that there are over 160 million ash trees in Vermont? All ash species native to Vermont (white, green and black) are susceptible to attack by the invasive tree pest, the emerald ash borer (EAB). May 18th – 25th is emerald ash borer awareness week. The goals of the initiative are to help people learn:

* To identify ash trees and the signs and symptoms of EAB
* About the threat posed to ash trees by EAB
* How to report suspicious trees on VTinvasives.org [Reportit](https://vtinvasives.org/reporting-emerald-ash-borer)!
* To help your community prepare to deal with an infestation

EAB is a major threat to our street and neighborhood trees – it has been detected in all states and provinces surrounding Vermont. The emerald ash borer has feasted on over 100 million ash trees in the Midwest, where it was first discovered in 2002. Unless treated with insecticides, most infested trees die within 3 to 5 years. Experience in Michigan and other states has shown that once this pest is detected in an area, more detections follow quickly — and the ash trees die rapidly over a few short years. EAB was confirmed in Vermont and 2018 and there are currently confirmed infestations in five Vermont counties.

Join us for EAB Awareness week and learn how to slow the spread. [INSERT DETAILS ON EAB AWARENESS EVENTS]. Contact [NAME, EMAIL AND PHONE] for more information.

***#4 To send out during emerald ash borer awareness week***

**Care about ash trees? Join the Woodpecker Watch!**

Woodpeckers have been found to be the number one predator of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in the U.S.; 90-95% of EAB mortality is caused by woodpeckers. Although there aren’t enough woodpeckers to make a significant dent in the EAB population, the bark flaking and excavation holes left on ash bark are great indicators that an ash tree is infested and warrants a closer look by professionals. Now is a great time of year to look up for woodpecker signs. If we find EAB infestations early and slow the spread we can save high value ash trees and have more management options!

Go to: <https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont> for more info.