

# Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Checklist

## *For Vermont Cities and Towns*

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed in northern Orange County, Vermont in 2018. Here are steps your town can take to reduce the impact of EAB when it reaches your community.

## Collaboration

- Form an EAB working group of key players in your town** such as members from a conservation commission or select board, Forest Pest First Detectors, Master Gardeners, foresters, and other interested, engaged citizens dedicated to natural resource conservation. Define roles and responsibilities within your group. It is a good idea to identify a team leader to help keep the momentum going.

## Action

- Determine how close you are to the current Vermont EAB infestation.** You can find the most up-to-date information and maps on Vermont's infestation at VTinvasives.org.
- Complete an inventory.** To plan effectively, know how many ash trees are present and, ideally, their size and condition. There are several ways to inventory. Contact Meredith Whitney with UVM Extension for support 802-476-2003.
- Conduct a survey for EAB.** A late winter drive-around tour where passengers look for "blonding" is an efficient way to look for new infestations.

## Decision

- Triage trees for treatment and removal.** Identify high-value ash trees you'll want to preserve through chemical treatment as well as trees you are sure will need to be removed. You may be able to complete this step during your inventory work.
- Budget for the future.** Consider treatment, removal, and replacement costs. The EAB Cost Calculator is an excellent resource to assist you. <https://int.entm.purdue.edu/ext/treecomputer/>
- Don't plant ash.** Every ash you plant now will need to be treated or removed when EAB arrives in your town.

## Education

- Hold a public educational program in your town.** Everyone will be affected when EAB arrives. People should know what to expect and what options are available. The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program can provide these programs to your town, free of charge.
- Hold a field training exercise.** Involve town staff as well as others who are interested. Go over ash identification and signs of EAB, especially blonding caused by woodpecker activity.
- Visit VTinvasives.org** to learn more about emerald ash borer and how to get involved.

