Recommendations for Tree Care and Clearing to **SLOW THE SPREAD** of Emerald Ash Borer

Infestations of the invasive pest emerald ash borer (EAB) naturally spread one to two miles annually. However, through human movement of ash materials (wood, branches, stump, debris) EAB and other wood pests can be transported long distances to uninfested areas, killing ash trees in new locations. Attention and care in managing the movement of infested ash material will slow the spread of EAB and allow time for planning, monitoring, and research.

TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF EAB, FOLLOW THESE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1) Look for Signs of EAB Infestation

Before working in or removing an ash tree, look for signs of EAB infestation. Visible signs include woodpecker activity and flecking, canopy dieback, epicormic shoots along the lower trunk, splitting bark, S-shaped feeding galleries under the bark, and D-shaped exit holes. An accurate assessment of whether an ash tree is infested with EAB will inform how to handle the ash material and work safely in and around EAB-infested ash trees.

2) Consider the Timing of Activities

The EAB flight season in Vermont begins June 1st and ends September 30th. The optimal time to prune out infested ash material is autumn to early winter when EAB is not active or mobile. An extended drying period before the next season will cause some EAB larvae to dry up and die before spring. To ensure safety when removing ash trees, conduct a risk tree evaluation before working on dead or dying ash trees; this is best accomplished when leaves are present.

3) Chip or Mulch Ash Material

Chipping infested ash material can kill all life stages of EAB through both the mechanics of the process and the heat generated afterwards in chip piles. Chip or mulch wood to as small of size as possible to minimize the wood available to EAB for survival. To be effective chippers should be maintained and cared for on a regular basis. Chipping or mulching ash material is effective at any time of year. If you must move un-chipped ash materials (wood, branches, stump, debris), please refer to the Recommendations to Slow the Spread of Emerald Ash Borer.

4) Protect High-Value Ash Trees with Insecticides

To determine if an ash tree warrants long-term protection with insecticides, consider factors such as the health of the tree, location, proximity to the infestation, and landowner objectives. Next, decide the optimal insecticide product* and delivery system for the size and location of the tree. Systemic insecticides are preferred as they eliminate drift and reduce non-target impacts. Applications of insecticides should be done by certified pesticide applicators that hold an active commercial license with the Agency of Agriculture in Ornamentals & Shade Tree Pest Control. Although there are homeowner products available, they can harm pollinators and are not recommended. Remember, treatment is not needed until trees are within the infested area.

*See VTinvasives.org/eab for insecticide treatment options, updated maps of the Infested Area, and more information. For additional information or questions, contact (802) 828-1531.

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