

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

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Emerald ash borer (EAB) infestations naturally spread 1-2 miles per year. People moving infested ash material (ash wood, branches, stumps, debris, etc.) to un-infested areas, however, spread EAB much farther distances each year. Carefully planning and managing the movement of infested or potentially infested ash material will **slow the spread** and provide greater protection for our forests and trees not yet affected by EAB.

**TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF EAB, FOLLOW THESE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE INFESTED AREA:**

## 1) Consider the Timing of Activities

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The EAB flight season is from May 1 to September 30. 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 trees, conduct a hazard tree evaluation before working on dead or dying ash trees; this is best accomplished when leaves are present.

## 2) Chip or Mulch Ash Material

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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.

## 3) Keep It Local Whenever Possible

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Minimize the distance ash material is moved by chipping it on site, using it as local firewood in the infested area, or aging it within the infested area for at least a full growing season. **Do not sell ash firewood to homeowners outside of the Infested Area.** Minimize the risk of wood theft and possible movement outside of the Infested Area by leaving wood in larger sizes that make it difficult to move or posting signage indicating the risk of moving ash. Visit [VTinvasives.org/eab](http://VTinvasives.org/eab) for a list of approved ash wood disposal sites located within the Infested Area. If you must move wood out of the Infested Area, please refer to the [Recommendations When Moving Ash from the Infested Area](#).

## 4) Protect High-Value Ash Trees with Insecticides

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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](http://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.