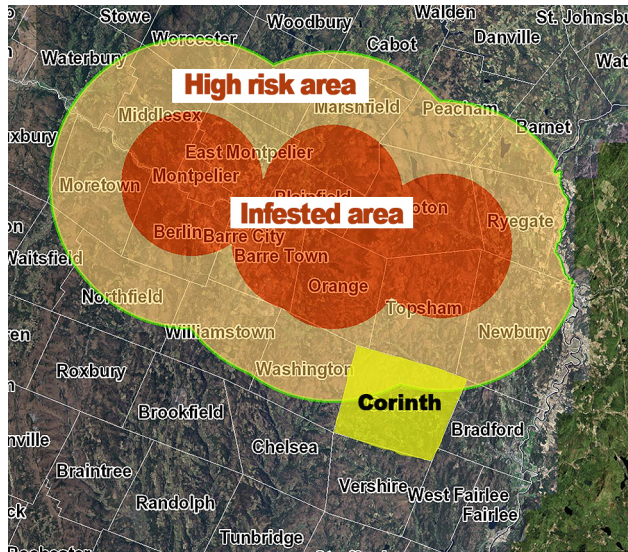


The Emerald Ash Borer is near – or here

Just over a year ago, small beetles called emerald ash borers (EAB) were found in Vermont, in the nearby Town of Orange. This beetle species, native to Asia, was first found in the U.S. 2002 in Detroit, Michigan. Since then ash trees have been infested and killed in 32 states and three provinces in Canada. The beetle larvae kill ash trees by eating the tissues just under the bark.



Once infested, ash trees rapidly decline and are killed in 3 to 5 years. Hundreds of millions of trees have been killed by EAB in the past 16 years – more than 99 percent of the ash trees in parts of some midwestern states. In Vermont, it's estimated that there are 150 million ash trees, about 5 percent of all the trees in Vermont forests, and the outlook is grim, ugly, and expensive. Insecticides have been proven effective at protecting individual trees, such as yard trees or others with special significance. But there is no way to control EAB in forests.

Forest landowners may choose to let their ash trees die and decay in place, but this is not an option for trees along town roads that threaten public safety. Ash trees killed by EAB soon become brittle and are much more dangerous and expensive to remove than live trees.

The Select Board has appointed a committee to coordinate Corinth's response to EAB, and Corinth has been awarded a grant from the state to help with the cost of conducting an inventory of ash trees in the town's road right-of-way so that we will know more about the magnitude of the approaching disaster.

Given how close the deadly insect is to Corinth, the Select Board plans to spread ash tree removals over several years. This means cutting some roadside ash trees in the town right-of-way while they are still healthy. Note that the town has the right to remove any trees within the town right-of-way (usually about 25 feet from the center line) that pose a hazard to any town road.

What can you do?

- Learn to identify ash trees if you can't do that already.
- Learn to identify the symptoms of EAB.
- Don't move firewood. People transporting firewood from town to town is the primary way this insect is spread. Guidelines are in place for the commercial moving of ash logs and pulpwood.
- Report possible EAB presence to VTinvasives.org
- Volunteer to help with the inventory of roadside trees.

See maps of emerald ash borer presence and learn more about the biology of this insect at <https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont>

Contact Virginia Barlow, Corinth tree warden, at ginny@redstartconsulting.com or 439 5652, or any member of the Conservation Commission or the Select Board if you have questions about EAB.