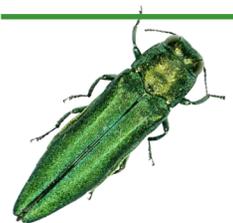


# EMERALD ASH BORER

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a beetle that feeds on ash trees and is responsible for the destruction of tens of millions of ash trees in North America. It was accidentally introduced from Asia into Michigan in the late 1990s.

## EAB In South Dakota



- EAB was identified in Sioux Falls in 2018 and will eventually make its way to Pierre.
- It may take a year or two for EAB to arrive in Pierre, or it may take ten years.
- When EAB arrives, it will kill all unprotected ash trees in our community.
- Once a tree is moderately infected with EAB, it will be dead within five years.
- Infected ash trees become very brittle and unsafe calling for their quick removal.

**Pierre Property Owners**  
are legally responsible for all  
trees on their property,  
including the boulevard.

## MITIGATION OPTIONS



### REMOVE TREES: BEFORE INFECTION

- Starting with less desirable and smaller ash trees, a gradual replacement over a number of years allows replacement trees to mature while remaining trees continue to provide shade and shelter.
- As the remaining ash trees are eventually replaced the first trees will be much bigger and able to quickly provide protection from our summer and winter weather.
- Spreading the workload and removal costs over several years is easier to budget for than a sudden need to remove every ash tree all at once.

### REMOVE TREES: AFTER INFECTION

- Tree removal can cost from \$200 to more than \$2,000 depending on location and size of the tree.
- Completely dead large ash trees are more expensive to remove due to their brittleness.
- Replacement trees can cost from \$75 - \$600 depending on the size and species of tree.

### CHEMICAL TREATMENT

- Insecticide injections are considered the best method of protection because it's the longest lasting and works on large trees.
- Injection treatments cost about \$200/tree and need to be repeated every 2 years.
- Chemical injections require a professional applicator.
- All chemical treatment options are a lifetime of the tree commitment.
- Keeping your ash trees in perfect health will not protect them.
- Bark sprays, injections, and soil applications of insecticides can prevent EAB infestations but are not recommended until EAB is confirmed within 15 miles of the tree's location.

## Ash Trees in Pierre

- A little over 11% of all trees in Pierre parks and other public areas are green ash trees; that's about 250 trees.
- A 2004 city-wide survey of trees in front and side yards of private properties found 33% were ash trees; that equates to well over 1,000 trees.
- Every one of these trees plus all backyard ash trees will need to be removed or chemically protected.
- The choices are to pick favorite ash trees and treat them once EAB comes near, wait to remove them once EAB gets here, or start a proactive plan of gradual replacement of ash trees.
- Reputable tree care companies, Ag Extension offices, or your local garden center can help you identify your existing trees and make suggestions for suitable replacements.
- For additional information visit [cityofpierre.org](http://cityofpierre.org) or call 773.7407.

This document is courtesy of the Pierre Arbor Board.

# Identify Ash Trees



## Branch and Bud Arrangement

Branches and buds are directly across from each other and not staggered. When looking for opposite branching in trees, consider that buds or limbs may die, hence not every single branch will have an opposite mate.



## Leaves

Leaves are compound and composed of 5-11 leaflets. Leaflet margins may be smooth or toothed.

\*White Ash leaves pictured.



## Bark

On mature ash trees, the bark is tight with a distinct pattern of diamond-shaped ridges.



## Seeds

When present on ash trees, seeds are dry and oar-shaped. They usually occur in clusters and typically hang on the tree until late fall or early winter.

\* Images and language provided by Penn State College of Agricultural Science