



**Cornell University**  
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**Cayuga County**

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To: All Cayuga County - Town & Village Clerks and local Municipal officials:

Emerald Ash Borer has arrived in Cayuga County and has begun to impact both our urban and rural environments.

In brief, this is an insect that kills all ash trees very quickly (2-4 years). Between 12 and 15 percent of all trees in Cayuga County are ash trees, meaning that this insect will have a very large influence on our forests in the coming years.

The insect is of particular interest to municipalities for two reasons: first, the loss of ash trees will negatively impact our ecosystems and the economic and environmental services they provide. Second, many ash trees exist in the public right of way: on streets or along sidewalks and paths, or within parks. Thus, efficient and adequate removal of dead or dying trees is of great importance to municipalities seeking to preserve streetscapes, forest canopies, and perhaps most importantly, public safety. Additionally, the cost of managing this environmental issue increase exponentially the longer action is delayed.

There are several resources to help your municipality through the Emerald Ash Borer invasion. Please feel free to contact Stefan Lutter at Cornell Cooperative Extension with any questions (315-255-1183 ext. 229; [sml339@cornell.edu](mailto:sml339@cornell.edu)).

Until then, some great steps to take:

- 1.) Raise awareness among residents that there are restrictions on transporting wood products. The regulations can be found here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/47761.html>  
Firewood specific – people transporting untreated firewood must carry a self-issued permit; attached.
- 2.) Municipalities should move quickly to document existing ash trees on public property, identifying specimens that may be worth treating and specimens that should be removed, and establishing a subsequent timetable for removal/treatment. Trees that are already weak or unhealthy are good candidates for earlier removal.

Further information can be found below:

General guidelines for municipalities, including a Community Preparedness Workbook:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/87019.html>

General info on EAB, including home owner info, forest owner info, and frequently asked questions:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html>

<http://nyis.info/index.php?action=eab>

General info on treatment: <http://www.nyis.info/pdf/EAB%20Insecticide%20Recommendations.pdf>

Again, please feel to reach out to us at Extension if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Stefan Lutter  
Environmental Educator

Enc: Self Issued Possession of Firewood Form  
DEC EAB Survey Form for citizens

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