

Update on an Interview with West Bend, an EAB Infested Community

Mike Jentsch, West Bend Park & Forestry Superintendent
11-17-11

Original interview conducted 6-13-2011: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/resources/Insider/pdf/interviewWestBend.pdf>

EAB UPDATE



Ash trees with EAB in 2010 are shown in red. 2011 EAB infested ash trees are shown in green.

Current infestation #'s:

- 38 City trees, at the end of the day today all of these tree will have been removed
- 29 County trees, located around a Washington County Administrative building, 3 have been removed. The additional 26 were located on Tuesday of this week. These will be removed shortly.
- 1 private tree, still standing

General Observations:

Any ash tree of any size is susceptible. Green or white is doesn't matter. Healthy or stressed is doesn't matter. We've removed trees with 8" DBH up to 44" DBH. Street trees, non-street trees, and parking lot trees have been infested. We've found damage in 1" diameter limbs and we've found damage in the trunk almost at ground level. They just pick a tree and go at it.

Surveys:

Our ground zero is our Downtown where we located EAB in 2010. In June of 2011 we located additional infested trees Downtown and 3 at the County building 2100' east of our Downtown. At that time we conducted walking and windshield surveys around these locations. If we located "questionable" trees we used our bucket truck to take a closer look. In early October 2011 we located 17 infested trees in the Downtown. The number 1 indicator, WOODPECKER damage. Several of the County trees we inspected this week had woodpecker damage everywhere on the tree, even within 18" of the base of the tree. Woodpecker damage is the easiest indicator. If we have woodpecker damage the tree automatically gets marked for removal. We have also peeled several trees. Peeling possibly helps us determine the age or degree of infestation on a tree.

Next Steps:

Tomorrow and next week we will continue with walking & windshield surveys. If we find a questionable tree a closer inspection with our bucket truck will occur. We will peel as needed.

Standing lumber will become common in West Bend. Look closely at the photo shown right and you will see a woodpecker working on a topped out ash tree, photo taken 11-17-11.

