

THE EMERALD ASH BORER



ReForest London
planting the future today

Covered in this Presentation:

- Ash Trees
- Ash Trees in London
- What is the Emerald Ash Borer and how is it affecting Ash Trees?
- What is the city's plan to deal with the problem?
- What can you do?



Mission:

ReForest London is a non-profit organization dedicated to partnering with our community to enhance environmental and human health in the Forest City, through the benefits of trees.

- Empowerment
- Ecosystem Health
- Education





MILLION
TREE
CHALLENGE

**THE GOAL OF THE
MILLION TREE
CHALLENGE IS TO PLANT
1,000,000 TREES IN 10
YEARS**

**ANY SPECIES, PLANTED BY ANYONE,
ANYWHERE WITHIN THE CITY OF LONDON**



Ash Trees

- In Norse mythology, the World Tree Yggdrasil is an ash tree, and the first man, Ask, was formed from an ash tree.
- Snakes were said to be repelled by ash leaves or a circle drawn by an ash branch.



Ash Trees

- Irish folklore claims that shadows from an ash tree would damage crops.
- In Cheshire, it was said that ash could be used to cure warts or rickets.
- In Sussex the ash and elm tree were known as the Widow Maker because the large boughs would often drop without warning



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How to Identify Ash Trees



Ridged Bark



Compound "Opposite" Leaves



Seeds



Opposite Branches

London's Ash Trees



- 10.2% of the total number of trees and 7.3% of the City's total leaf cover
- Many planted after Dutch elm disease spurred a massive die-off of elm trees in the 1960s and 1970s



About the Bug

- Discovered in London in November 2006 on a few properties
- Poses a significant risk to about 20,000 trees in our yards and city streets
- It also poses a serious risk to about 10 per cent of all trees in natural areas



How Did it Get Here?

- Its North American origin is believed to be Detroit/Windsor and it is thought to have been introduced accidentally on wood pallets from Asia



What does the Bug do?

- The adult EAB is actually quite harmless
- Most of the damage is a result of the feeding larvae, the insect's young
- The tiny white larvae gouge paths through the cambium, the layer just below the bark that transports nutrients to the rest of the tree
- By cutting off nourishment, the young borers slowly starve the tree to death



How to Identify Infected Trees



Crown Dieback



Bark Cracks



Woodpeckers



Exit Holes



Tunnels

Extent of the Problem



- Since discovered in 2002 the EAB has killed tens of millions of ash trees across much of eastern north America.
- The insect has cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars.



For us this Means:

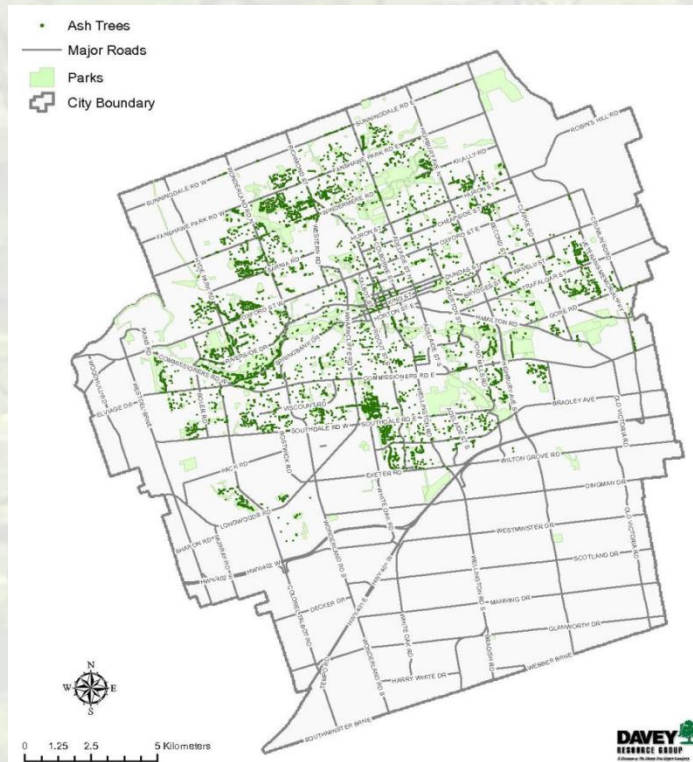


- London will lose over half a million ash trees worth approximately \$130 million dollars over the next 7-10 years.
- The impact to our urban forest will be substantial.



What is the City's Plan?

- Emerald Ash Borer Strategy presented September, 2011
- The strategy presents three main remedial activities



DAVEY
RESOURCE GROUP

Injections

- TreeAzin, a bio-insecticide injected directly into the base of the tree with no hazard to the user or environment.



Removal of Dead and Hazardous Trees



- City crews are removing dead and hazardous trees on City property and identifying locations for replanting as part of on-going operations.
- Wood is then either mulched or used by homeowners as firewood



2:1 Replanting Plan



- Not all planted trees will survive.
- Planting two trees for each one lost will ensure that the City's long-term overall leaf cover is not compromised.



What Can You Do?

- 98% of ash trees are found on private property
- If you have the Emerald Ash borer in your ash tree, take immediate steps to determine the degree of infestation, the health of the tree and appropriate action.



Options for Action

- Depending on the health of the tree you have the same options as the city:
 1. Tree injection treatments
 2. Proactive removal while the tree is partially alive; or
 3. Removal of dead and hazardous trees



Treatment - TreeAzin

- Treating your tree is usually less expensive than removing it. If the tree is healthy with 70% or more of its leaves, TreeAzin injections have been proven to provide very good control of EAB.
- Costs range from \$150 for a small tree upwards to \$650 for a 80 cm diameter at breast height Ash tree



Doing Nothing: a Dangerous Option

- If you do nothing, the tree will die become brittle, break easily and present a hazard.



Diversity Rules

- Planting a wide range of native tree species will protect us from large species specific losses in the future



If you Need Help...

To get help to assess your tree call the **City of London** at:

519-661-2500 ext. 5783

You can always call us here at **ReForest London:**

519-936-9548

info@reforestlondon.ca
www.reforestlondon.ca



Any Questions?

Thank you!

