

Forestry Timely Topics

Stop Pruning Oaks Now

April is the beginning of the time period when you must stop pruning oak trees in order to prevent the spread of the fatal oak wilt disease. Keep in mind that the time period from November through March is the best time to prune oak trees. It is worth noting that this is the best time to prune most other trees due to the dormancy of most insects and diseases. If you need to cut any living branches or roots of an oak tree from April-October, or remove any oaks, it's very important to spray the pruning cut or the top of the stump immediately with latex or acrylic spray paint.

Sap beetles that carry spores of the oak wilt fungus on their bodies are attracted to the smell of freshly cut oaks. The layer of paint creates a barrier so spores cannot be transmitted into the tree or root system. Once a tree is infected, the disease is spread from tree to tree primarily through shared root systems of oak trees. Oak wilt researchers have broken up the calendar year into three risk periods based on the chances of oaks contracting the disease. These risk periods are: **April-June: high risk; July-October: low risk; November-March: no risk/safe.** It is important to note that low risk **DOES NOT** mean no risk, and only prune if necessary during this time period.

For more information on oak wilt, visit <http://www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/> . If you have questions about oak wilt disease, please contact Stephan Papiz, Forester/Natural Resources Specialist at (763) 531-1273.

Emerald ash borer moves closer

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found in Minnesota. The [Minnesota Department of Agriculture](http://www.mda.state.mn.us) website (<http://www.mda.state.mn.us>) has detailed information and photographs. There is also a "Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?" check list. Residents who suspect that a tree is infested with EAB can contact the MN Dept of Agriculture's "arrest the pest" hot line at 651-201-6684. You are encouraged to review the information on the Department of Agriculture website before calling the hot line.

The public has been asked not to move ash wood (live trees or for firewood).

This Asian pest in a few short years has decimated ash tree populations in Michigan, and continues to become established in areas radiating out from there. Since Minnesota has some of the largest numbers of ash trees in the nation (they are native and have been widely used to reforest cities), awareness and planning are essential.

As ash trees comprise a high percentage (about 15%) of Robbinsdale's forest and the EAB threat is so great, the City of Robbinsdale is not presently planting ash trees. The City also cooperates with MDA in EAB detection efforts. To compare the Emerald Ash Borer to similar insects look at this link (<http://www.robbinsdalemn.com/Download/Forestry/EABMimics.pdf>)

Transporting Firewood

Many serious invasive tree pests migrate and spread on or in firewood transported from an infested site to a "clean" site. When camping, buy locally grown firewood at or near the campsite and leave what remains unburned. Please don't give these pests a ride.