

Adopt an Ash Tree Program

In August 2015, the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was confirmed and documented in Princeton, New Jersey. Princeton has nearly 2,000 ash trees on its streets alone and many more in its parks and public spaces. Without preventative treatment, nearly all will be dead in 8 to 10 years.

Trees provide so much and ask for so little. They produce oxygen, provide shade, cool houses and their inhabitants, serve as windbreakers and buffers, stabilize soil, reduce runoff and flooding, sequester carbon and reduce the buildup of atmospheric carbon dioxide, filter air pollution, reduce dust, and produce food and habitat for wildlife. The Princeton Shade Tree Commission, working with Princeton Council and the town's Arborist, is developing a plan to preserve some of our town's ash trees. Residents are encouraged to help with this preservation effort.

The goal of the "Adopt an Ash Tree" program is to provide a way for residents, working with the town and a registered, licensed tree service contractor, to assist in protecting the ash tree population. This program encompasses all municipal trees—those on streets and in parks and other public spaces—and allows residents to select specific ash trees to protect by contracting to have them treated with an approved pesticide. A request form for those interested in adopting an ash tree is below.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

1. The decision to treat/preserve a specific municipal ash tree is at the discretion of the town's Arborist. Many ash trees are not candidates for treatment because of age or current condition.
2. The "Adopt an Ash Tree" program applies only to trees within the municipality's purview.
3. The ONLY allowable treatment at this time is chemical, involving direct injection into the trunk of a viable tree. The injections must be repeated on a specific timed schedule.
4. The cost of said treatment is to be worked out between the resident and the registered licensed tree service contractor hired to do the injections. The contractor must be registered with the New Jersey Board of Tree Experts and possess a valid New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commercial Pesticide Applicators License.
5. Residents must renew the "adopt" request each time a tree needs to be treated. Depending on the product used, the treatment is effective for a period of one (1) to three (3) years and must be repeated.
6. Residents should be aware that an adopted tree or trees may still decline, suffer storm damage, or undergo other unanticipated impairment that may necessitate removal of the tree(s).

If you have any further questions concerning the "Adopt an Ash Tree" program, please [contact](#) the Princeton Shade Tree Commission.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the estimated cost of treatment? - The estimated treatment cost will depend on the pesticide treatment used and the size of the tree. Prices will vary, but for planning purposes, a cost of \$10 to \$15 per diameter inch of the tree can be used.

How long does one chemical treatment last? - Approximately one (1) to three (3) years, depending on the product used.

What are the signs that a tree is affected by the EAB? - The tree's leaves will become smaller and will begin to show signs of dieback in the upper canopy, it will lose branches at the top, and typically shoots will come out of the trunk in unusual locations, including at ground level. A D-shaped hole will often be found where the adult borer exited the tree.

If the tree is not treated, what will happen? - All ash trees will eventually be infested and will die within eight (8) to ten (10) years.

If I have ash trees on my private property (i.e., not street trees), what will happen to them? - If not treated, they will also die. A registered licensed tree service contractor can be contacted to assist in decision-making. Following is a list of registered arboricultural companies: <https://njtreeexperts.org/index.php/directory-search>

Who should I contact to adopt an ash tree? - Contact the Princeton Shade Tree Commission via the [contact us form](#)



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EMERALD ASH BORER
 REQUEST BY PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNER TO TREAT
 ASH TREES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY/PARKS

Date:

Name:			
Address:		Block:	Lot:
Telephone:			
Cell Phone:			
E-Mail:			
Address Where Treatment To Take Place:			
Number of Trees: _____ Tree Location(s): Front _____ Side _____ Rear _____ Size of Tree(s) (diameter measured at 4.5' above ground): Closest Cross Street:			
Company Being Used (must be registered with New Jersey Board of Tree Experts):			
<u>Company letter (on Company letterhead) sent electronically, with hard copy mailed to Arborist to the address above, providing the following information:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • product to be used with specimen label provided • application rate • method being used • pesticide applicator ID number and proof of license • date of treatment • projected date for next treatment • statement that all NJDEP rules and regulations will be adhered to including required notifications to adjacent property owners and posting of area once treatment is performed 			
OFFICE USE ONLY:			
Front _____	Side _____	Rear _____	
Notes:			
Tree(s) Approved _____		Tree(s) Partially Approved _____	Tree(s) Denied _____
Arborist _____	Date _____	_____	