

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Contact:
Princeton Shade Tree Commission
Email:
http://www.princetonshadetree.org/contact_commission

Princeton Urges Residents To Be On The Lookout For The Tree-Killing Emerald Ash Borer

An information session for Princeton residents on the emerald ash borer will take place at 7 pm on Thursday, June 23, at the Princeton Municipal Complex, 400 Witherspoon Street, Main Meeting Room (Court Room). All homeowners, landowners, homeowner association representatives, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Pam Zipse, Outreach Coordinator for the Rutgers Urban Forestry Program, will present an overview of the insect, as well as recommendations from state agencies. Members of Princeton's Shade Tree Commission will discuss Princeton's ash trees, and the municipal arborist will respond to questions relating to the beetle in Princeton.

The emerald ash borer has been found in one ash tree in Princeton and in ash trees in several other nearby communities. As this invasive pest spreads easily to neighboring trees, all residents should check their ash trees for symptoms of infestation.

"The emerald ash borer will kill 99 percent of all ash trees within the next few years," said Lorraine Konopka, Princeton's municipal arborist. "Residents should identify ash trees on their property and monitor for signs of damage or decline, such as unusual woodpecker activity or missing bark."

Since the discovery of the emerald ash borer in Michigan in 2002, the beetle has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America. In May 2014, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture confirmed New Jersey's first detection of the emerald ash borer in Bridgewater, Somerset County.

The emerald ash borer is a small, metallic green, non-native invasive pest. Trees can be infested for years before the tree begins to show symptoms of infestation. Symptoms include canopy dieback, woodpecker activity, missing bark, D-shaped exit holes, shoots sprouting from the trunk, and S-shaped larval tunnels (galleries) under the bark.

If a tree is already infested or in poor health, it may be best to remove the tree before it dies and poses a hazard to people and surrounding structures. For those residents with high-value ash in good health, trees can be treated before they become infested.

A certified tree expert can help residents evaluate, then treat or remove, ash trees. Individuals can contact the Board of Certified Tree Experts at 732-833-0325 or njtreeexperts@gmail.com for a list of professionals serving the Princeton area or check the directory of Mercer County certified tree experts that will soon be available on the Princeton Shade Tree Commission website (<http://www.princetonshadetree.org>).

Residents who detect any signs of infestation by the emerald ash borer beetle should call the New Jersey Department of Agriculture at 609-406-6939. More information can be found at www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov.

Questions can also be directed to the Princeton Shade Tree Commission (http://www.princetonshadetree.org/contact_commission).

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