



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Your Ash Tree/s: Considerations For Hiring a Contractor to Help Manage Your Ash Tree



Hire an Arborist

Arborists specialize in the care and maintenance of individual trees. Many landscape maintenance companies are generalists and are not trained in the nuances of tree care. Arborists are highly skilled in proper pruning, felling, stump grinding and tree planting practices, and plant health care.

What Are The Options for My Ash Tree/s?

- Do nothing— Experiences from Eastern states and new research has proven that trees that die from EAB dry out quickly, become brittle and are prone to failure. Hazardous trees that fall unexpectedly have the potential to cause serious harm to people and property. [Avoiding EAB is not an option.](#)
- Insecticidal treatment to prolong the life of the tree— There are many chemical options that are available that will protect your ash tree/s from EAB with varying efficacies. Some chemicals are available for purchase at your local hardware store and others are labeled for use by a licensed pesticide applicator. Visit www.emeraldashborer.info to learn about the options for insecticidal treatment.
- Tree removal
- Tree removal and replanting

Consider the health, location and benefits of your ash tree/s. Are the trees shading your home, or is the tree/s in poor health and appear to be declining from other causes? A professional arborist can help you understand the options, but only you can decide the fate of your tree/s.

Arborist-Applied Insecticides

- Arborists that have a State of Colorado Pesticide Applicators License have access to an assortment of insecticides that are labeled for protecting ash trees from EAB. Become familiar with the treatment options by reading, [Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from Emerald Ash Borer.](#)
- Each chemical is labeled with the frequency of application, some require annual treatments, while others are every other year.
- Each chemical can preserve your ash tree/s, but may have some negative environmental impacts. The white paper, [Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Potential Side Effects of Systemic Insecticides Used to Control Emerald Ash Borer,](#) can help answer many of those questions.
- Trees located within the Boulder County rights-of-ways and properties require a permit for treatment. Trunk injection is the only permitted application method for ash treatment on public trees. Contact the Boulder County Emerald Ash Borer Coordinator, eab@bouldercounty.org, if you want to treat a public tree.



Tree Removal

- Arborists are skilled tree removal experts. The cost of the removal will be dependent upon the location of the tree/s, the structure and stability of the tree/s and the method for removal, either by tree climber, bucket truck, or crane.
- Do not wait until the tree dies to have the tree removed. Ash trees that have died from EAB quickly become brittle and reduces the options you have for removal.

Considerations When Hiring an Arborist

- Seek bids from three contractors
- Ask the appraiser to walk you through the work process. Which tree/s will be treated and which tree/s will be removed. Make sure that you and the contractor are on the same page.
- Request an itemized list of services so that you can easily compare quotes between contractors.
- Request a date for the service. Will the work be performed over multiple days and what happens if the contractor needs to rescheduled?
- When having a tree removed, make sure that you specify whether or not you want the stump removed. Not all quotes will automatically include stump removal.

What certifications or memberships should I look for when hiring an arborist?

Seek a Certified Arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) or an accredited company by the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA). ISA Certified Arborists and TCIA Accredited companies are required to meet the highest standards for professionalism, employee training, state and federal safety regulations, business ethics and consumer satisfaction, aimed at safeguarding consumers.



-Visit the Boulder County EAB Webpage or EABColorado.org for additional information-

