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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Reports of Tree Scammers Surface in Nebraska

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LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) is encouraging homeowners to beware of solicitors promoting tree services and products related to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Unconfirmed reports have surfaced from around the state of person(s) providing misinformation, or claiming they will eradicate the invasive insect through treatment or removal of ash trees. These “companies” may be uninsured, unlicensed or request payment upfront—all possible indications of a scam.

“If the treatments seem too good to be true, that’s likely the case,” says NFS Forest Health Specialist Jennifer Morris. “Familiarizing yourself with EAB and what options are out there is an excellent way to sniff out possible scams.”

The NFS would like to remind the tree care industry, homeowners and municipalities that EAB **has not** been detected in Nebraska. While community leaders should proactively inventory and assess public ash trees, the NFS does not recommend homeowners treat their trees at this time. However, anyone interested in exploring treatment options should use arborists certified by the Nebraska Arborists Association (<http://nearborists.org/>) or the International Society of Arboriculture (<http://www.isa-arbor.com/>).

“Using a certified arborist adds another layer of protection and proper tree care,” added Morris.

EAB is currently known to be present in 25 states, including the neighboring states of Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado. If or when EAB is discovered in Nebraska, an official announcement will be released by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. More information on how to identify EAB, what treatment options exist, and how the public can ready themselves is available at www.eabne.info.

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