

Is your community ready...



Ash-lined street in Toledo, Ohio, 2006. Photo by Dan Herms, Ohio State University.

... for this?



Same street in 2009—all ash trees dead. Photo by Dan Herms, Ohio State University.

Why is this Important?

Potential public safety issue

Budget limitations mean communities never completely replant public trees lost in storms, reducing community vitality, attractiveness and economic development opportunities.

Trees provide community "green" infrastructure.



Adult emerald ash borer beetle. Photo by David Cappaert, Michigan State University. Bugwood.org

Some certainties:

- EAB significantly impacts communities
- EAB overwhelms municipal budgets
- Dealing with EAB is unavoidable - it cannot be ignored
- Spending on EAB management cannot be avoided
- EAB multiplies at exponential rates once established
- Municipalities forced to rapidly increase tree removal costs
- Municipalities face increased liability due to dead and unstable trees
- Risk of injury to tree workers and public increase around dead, unstable ash trees
- Utilities have lost millions in outage costs due to falling ash trees killed by EAB
- Home values decline in neighborhoods with heavy ash losses, affecting tax base



Extreme weather conditions are putting more pressure on Nebraska's tree and forest resources.

What You Need to Know

Threats to Nebraska's Community Trees and Municipal Budgets

What Does Funding the Tree Recovery Act (LB461) Mean for Nebraskans?



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Background

Nebraska is already a tough place for trees during normal conditions, but now our trees face threats to their very existence—Emerald ash borer (EAB) and extreme weather conditions impact the health, viability and safety of our trees.

What Already Happened to Our Trees

- Severe storms and extreme weather over past 18 months destroyed thousands of trees—some towns lost 40 percent of their trees.
- Estimated \$4.2 million toll in lost or damaged trees
- Stressed municipal budgets not prepared for cost to replace large numbers of trees

What to Expect from EAB

- EAB has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees across the eastern U.S. and infested areas bordering Nebraska on three sides—Colorado, Iowa and Kansas. Highly likely EAB is already in Nebraska.
- EAB has potential to kill every ash tree in Nebraska communities.
- Ash tree mortality increases exponentially and on a large scale beginning six to seven years after introduction.
- Nebraska communities have nearly 1 million ash trees (~256,000 ash trees on public property and 640,000 on private property).
- Nearly 100 percent of ash trees within a community killed within 15 years of EAB introduction

Potential Financial Impact from EAB & Extreme Weather

- Cost estimates for removal, disposal and replacement of dead trees killed by EAB:
 - Public: \$275 million
 - Private: \$686 million

Learn more:

Nebraska Forest Service

nfs.unl.edu

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What Would Funding for the Tree Recovery Act Provide?

LB461, introduced into the Nebraska Legislature in 2015 to fund the Tree Recovery Act, would provide:

- Cost-share assistance to communities
- 50/50 cost share grants for EAB-affected ash removals, disposal and replanting
- 50/50 cost share grants for community tree planting after severe weather events.
- Slow rate of EAB's spread, providing municipalities time to cash flow required investments
- Expand monitoring and detection for EAB
- Rapid detection, removal and processing of infested trees
- Proactive removals of declining or hazardous ash trees, and isolated infestations
- Community education, citizen-based EAB detectors
- Utilize woody material (using Nebraska Forest Service existing funding) to create new products, markets and stimulate economic development