Selecting Trees for Emerald Ash Borer Treatments
A Pictorial Guide for Home Landscapes

Be very selective when choosing trees for EAB treatments. Trees should be highly valuable, in a good location, and in good condition.

Ash trees provide many benefits to home landscapes. This publication provides information to help you select those trees most suitable for treatments to protect them from emerald ash borer (EAB).

More information on EAB and treatments: 
Nebraska Forest Service: nfs.unl.edu/EAB

Laurie Stepanek
Nebraska Forest Service

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Good Candidates for Treatment

Good candidates for treatment are trees that are in very good health. Typically these trees have had a history of proper care including:

- **Supplemental watering** during extended dry periods.
- **Periodic mulching** with an organic mulch such as wood or bark chips.
- Protection of the tree from harmful levels of lawn herbicides and other weed control chemicals.
- Protection of the roots from the following:
  - soil disturbance such as excavation for building construction, installation of sidewalks, patios or driveways, or trenching for utility lines.
  - soil compaction from heavy foot traffic or vehicles parked under the tree.

Trees in good health will:

- Respond better to treatments.
- Better handle the damage that some treatments cause.

When selecting trees to treat, keep in mind the drawbacks and limitations of treatments:

- Required for the lifespan of the tree
- May cause damage to the tree
- May pose a risk to humans, pets and wildlife
- May have other harmful environmental impacts
- Monetary cost

Poor Candidates for Treatment

Examine your trees for the following signs of poor health. These trees are not good candidates for treatment.

Look at the canopy of the tree:

Stand back and look at the canopy of the tree. **Dead branches and thin foliage** (the sky is easily seen through the leaves) are indicators of poor health.

Note: While thin foliage often indicates poor health, a canopy thick with leaves is not always an indication of good health. See information about sprouting to the right.

Epicormic sprouts (water sprouts, suckers) are small diameter branches growing from the trunk and major limbs. They can grow several inches to several feet in one year. Although these sprouts often produce many leaves and may give the illusion of a full canopy, they are a sign that the tree is in poor health.

Look for sprouting on the trunk and branches:

Look for trunk or branch damage by insects and diseases:

- **Holes and tunnels** made by insects feeding in the branches or trunk are often seen in trees that are in poor health. Trees may be deformed or scarred as a result of this feeding.

- **Fungal conks (mushrooms)** on the trunk or large branches indicate internal decay. Trees with extensive decay may have hollow trunks. Such trees may be structurally weak.