

Tips on dealing with Emerald Ash Borer

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) identified an invasive threat to Caledon's trees last year.

The Emerald Ash Borer, a beetle accidentally introduced to North America from Asia, is now attacking local ash trees.

The insect burrows into the wood of ash trees to lay eggs, which will hatch and the young feed on the tree throughout their life cycle.

A full infestation will lead to the death of the tree and there is no way to salvage it once there is an infestation.

For this reason, and due to the fact that there is no singularly effective way of dealing with the species, homeowners with ash trees on their property will need to be extra cautious. They should first familiarize themselves with the symptoms of infestation that include; reduced leaf density, shoots growing out of trunk and branches, vertical cracks in the wood, holes in the trunk, or signs of adults feeding on leaves.

When an infestation is suspected there is no immediate need to cut down the tree, owners should feel free to contact a professional to discuss a course of action or take preemptive measures. There are also two new products that may be able to stop early larval infestations that are currently being tested by the Town of Caledon in partnership with the CFIA and the Peel Urban Forestry Working Group.

If a dead or hazardous tree needs to be cut down, the owner should not use the trunk or branches as firewood. Moving the tree can expose new areas to the Ash Borers.