

EMERALD ASH BORER INVADES POTTSTOWN AREA

Since it was first discovered in Michigan in 2002, the emerald ash borer has killed tens of millions of trees in 22 states and two Canadian provinces. After first appearing near Pittsburgh in 2007, the emerald ash borer has spread to 47 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, including Montgomery County.



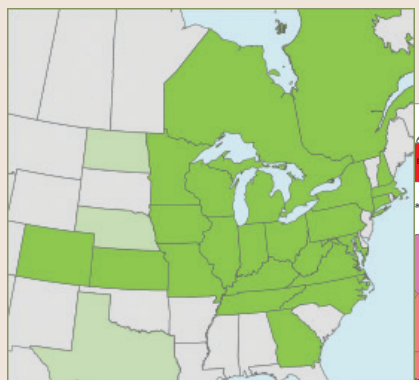
BEFORE INFESTATION



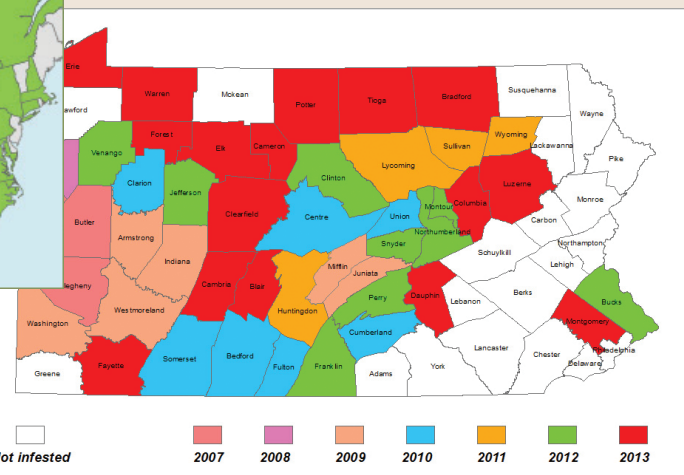
AFTER INFESTATION



Ash borer sweeps east from Midwest to southeastern Pennsylvania



After first appearing in Allegheny County in 2007, the emerald ash borer has spread to 47 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.



According to experts with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the emerald ash borer will kill every ash tree in southeastern Pennsylvania, most likely within the next five years. Ash trees are not only plentiful in Pennsylvania's forests, they are one of the most common shade trees in the state.

Only ash trees that are treated annually with insecticide will survive.

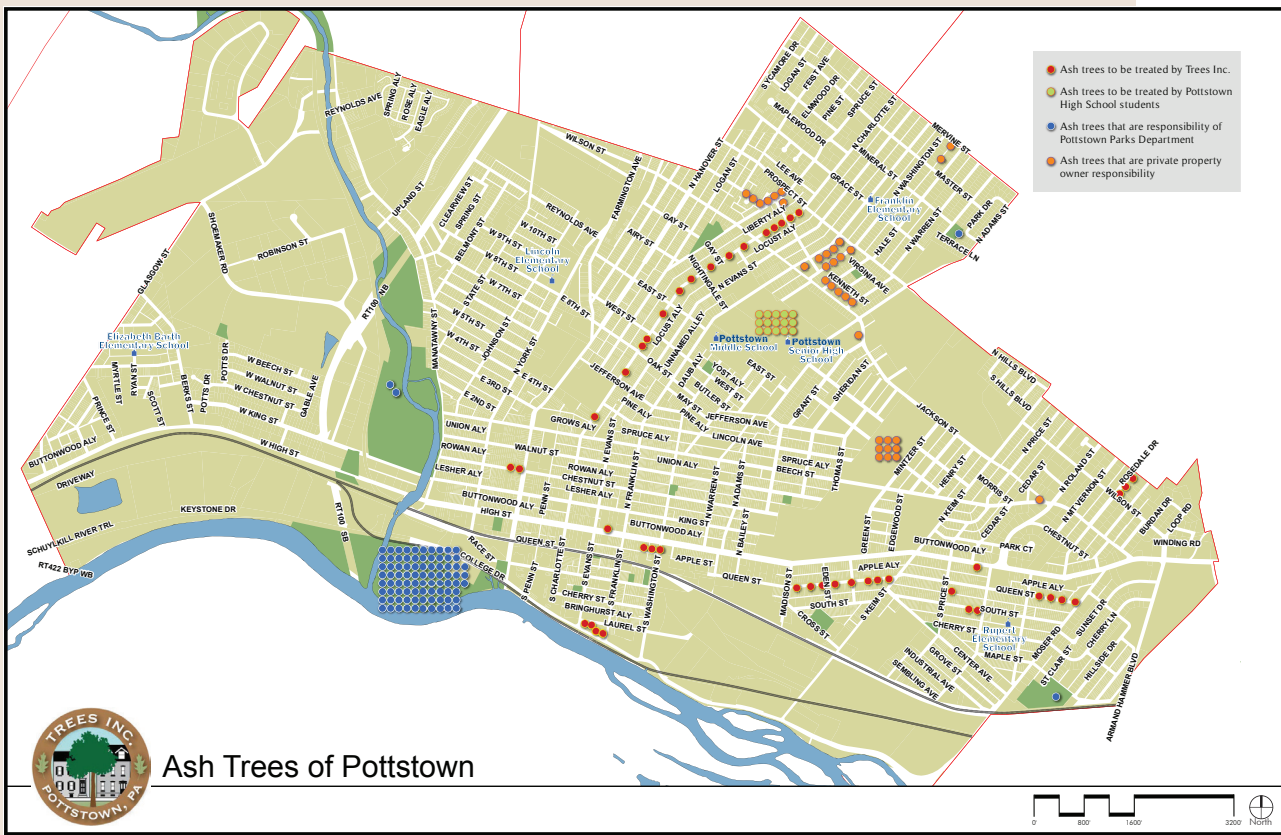
The emerald ash borer, native to northeast Asia, was first discovered in Detroit in 2002. Since then, it has spread throughout the Midwest and the Northeast, killing tens of millions of trees. Adult females lay their eggs under the ash tree's bark where they hatch. Larvae feeding in the cambial region disrupt water and nutrient transport inside the tree, resulting in 99 percent tree mortality within four to five years after the initial attack.

Ash trees in urban areas like Pottstown improve air quality, decrease stormwater runoff, reduce the need for air conditioning by lowering ambient temperatures in the summer, and increase property values.

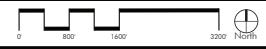
Trees Inc., a non-profit corporation founded in 1983 to plant and maintain street trees in Pottstown, has contracted with the Davey Tree Expert Co. to treat most of Pottstown's street ash trees later this month by injecting a pesticide directly into their trunks, which will protect the trees for two years.

However, there are scores of other ash trees in Pottstown – at Riverfront Park, the Hill School, in cemeteries, and in residents' yards – that need to be considered. If these trees are not treated, they will die and have to be removed.

This newspaper supplement is designed to increase awareness and provide options for people who want to protect their trees.



Ash Trees of Pottstown



This map of Pottstown shows the general location of ash trees in the borough that are visible to the public. Although Trees Inc. will treat most of Pottstown's street trees, it will be up to the Pottstown Parks Department to treat trees in Pottstown's parks, and up to private property owners to treat trees on their property.

Pottstown property owners responsible for ash tree maintenance



The Borough of Pottstown makes private property owners responsible for the care and maintenance of trees on their property and along the street adjacent to their property.

As a public service, Trees Inc., a non-profit organization, has contracted with the Davey Tree Expert Co. to treat 129 ash trees along Pottstown streets for emerald ash borer. This treatment, which involves injecting a pesticide directly into the tree trunks, will protect the trees for at least two years.



In Cleveland, an expert with ArborJet, the manufacturer of TREE-age, inspects a system for injecting the pesticide into an ash tree. TREE-age injections will be used by Davey Tree Expert Co. to protect Pottstown's street trees for the next two years.

DISCLAIMER: Trees Inc. is a private non-profit corporation dedicated to planting, maintaining, and advocating for street trees. Trees Inc. accepts no liability for any trees in the borough, including liability related to further maintenance or trimming.

Property owners who want to protect their ash trees can do it themselves using pesticides available at home improvement centers and lawn and garden stores.

However, experts advise property owners with trees measuring 48 inches or more in circumference at breast height (4 ½ feet above the ground) to consider hiring a professional to do the work.

The Michigan State University Extension Service tested one commercial pesticide, Bayer Advanced Garden™ Tree and Shrub Insect Control and found it was effective in protecting ash trees, if done once a year.

Other such products include Ortho Max Tree and Insect Control and Bonide Tree and Shrub Insect Control. The active ingredient in this and other do-it-yourself pesticides is Imidaproclid. Make sure this ingredient is listed on the label. Also, make sure the label specifically states the product is effective against emerald ash borers.

These products are used by diluting the pesticide in water and pouring it around the base of the tree. Applications should be made in late May or early June. Be sure to carefully follow the directions on the label.

For a three-minute video by a Purdue University entomologist on using a homeowner soil treatments, visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ub5_jzrWVug.



An Illinois ash tree is protected by pouring a soil drench around the base of the tree using an off-the-shelf pesticide from a home improvement store.

A PARTIAL LIST OF POTTSTOWN ASH TREES

Street trees

(to be treated by Trees Inc.)

Charlotte Street	100-800 block
Chestnut Street	100 block
High Street	300-400 block
High Street	1132
Industrial Highway	400 block
Queen Street	800-1300 block
Rosedale Drive Island	
Walnut Street	300-400 block

Pottstown Parks

(responsibility of borough)

Riverfront Park
Memorial Park
Maple Street Park
Terrace Lane Park

Trees on private property

(responsibility of property owner)

Hill School
Pottstown YMCA
St. Aloysius Old Cemetery
Jackson Street 1100 block
Washington Street 900 block
Diamond Street 200-300 block
Spruce Street 800 block
Wilson Street 500 block
Franklin Street 900 block
Hale Street 800 block
Evans Street 1200 block



Left: These trees on the 1300 block of Queen Street are among those that will be treated by Trees Inc.

Right: There are 15 ash trees planted in the parking lots between the Pottstown Middle School and Pottstown High School. They will be treated by Pottstown High School student volunteers, supervised by Trees Inc.



This 50-year-old ash on Diamond Street is one of scores of trees on private lawns that must be treated by homeowners.



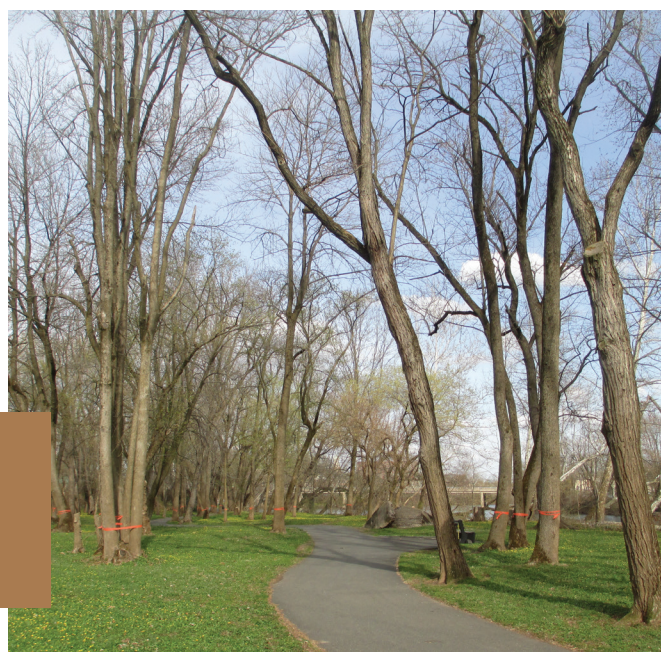
Nearly every tree on the 800 block of Hale Street is an ash. They were probably planted when the houses were built about 60 years ago.



The Hill School has at least a dozen large ash trees like these between the library and the dell.

Left: More than 80 ash trees have recently been identified along the greenway in Riverfront Park. They were marked with orange tape by an arborist with the Davey Tree Expert Co. They must be treated by the Pottstown Parks and Recreation Department if they are to survive. If not, they must be removed as a safety hazard.

Right: This ash tree on the 500 block of Wilson Street is one of many, like those at the nearby YMCA, that are planted in prominent locations.



For more information
www.emeraldashborer.info
www.pottstowntrees.org