



Urban & Community Forestry Success in Maine: EAB Detection, Response & Planning for Municipalities

As emerald ash borer (EAB) infestations continue to grow in both scope and severity in Maine, municipalities, landowners, land-trusts, and transportation authorities have been forced to make difficult decisions. Cities and towns in particular are wrestling with whether to use pesticides to curb EAB damage, when and where ash trees should be removed, and what special skills and resources are needed to manage EAB infested trees.

Towns in Maine are also working to (1) uphold safety protocols before, during, and after tree removal, (2) pay costs associated with tree removal and/or treatment, and (3) plan for replacing street and shade trees affected by EAB.

The Maine Forest Service has partnered with the City of Portland and the Maine Department of Transportation to accomplish a number of priorities in the state's Forest Action Plan related to EAB preparedness, response, and recovery in cities and towns. Utilizing a \$64,000 Forest Health Restoration grant from the USDA Forest Service, the Maine Forest Service is:

- **Developing a MDOT roadside ash management protocol** to be completed by December 31, 2021.
- **Developing a Portland roadside ash management protocol** to be completed by June 31, 2021.
- **Monitoring EAB with help from cooperators.** Residents within the current quarantine area of York and Cumberland Counties who have ash trees on their own property or ash trees nearby in public spaces are collecting samples every two weeks to help MFS keep better tabs on EAB distribution.
- **Utilizing green funnel traps.** The federal deregulation of EAB conveyed 40 green funnel traps and hundreds of lures from APHIS to MFS for statewide monitoring. This transfer of equipment represents a cost savings for MFS that allows the agency to utilize funds for restoration efforts in Southern Maine.
- **Monitoring EAB with trap trees (24 units)** led by MFS Forest Health and Monitoring and Forest Policy and Management staff.

