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## EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE

The Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) is encouraging homeowners to beware of solicitors promoting tree services and products related to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). There are some unconfirmed reports that have surfaced from around the state of person(s) providing misinformation, or claiming they will eradicate the invasive insect through treatment or removal of ash trees. These “companies” may be uninsured, unlicensed or request payment upfront, all possible indications of a scam.

To see the counties in the United States where we have confirmed Emerald Ash Borer go to: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>. It may be here in Nebraska but so far undiscovered. We have damage to ash trees in the Kansas City area and north and in southwest Iowa now.

If the treatments seem too good to be true, that’s likely the case. What a perfect way for scammers to take your money and also pray on the elderly. Getting familiar with EAB and what options are out there is an excellent way to sniff out possible scams.

The NFS would like to remind the tree care industry, homeowners and municipalities that EAB has not been detected in Nebraska. While community leaders should proactively inventory and assess public ash trees, the NFS does not recommend homeowners to treat their trees at this time. However, anyone interested in exploring treatment options should use arborists certified by the Nebraska Arborists Association (<http://nearborists.org/>) or the International Society of Arboriculture (<http://www.isa-arbor.com/>)

In Saline County we have two certified arborists that are listed including Rick Brown or Browns Tree Service in Crete and Dennis Thompson who serves Dorchester. Others, of course from the surrounding area, also serve Saline County.

Using a certified arborist adds another layer of protection and proper tree care. EAB is currently known to be present in 25 states, including the neighboring states of Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado. When EAB is discovered in Nebraska, an official announcement will be released by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. The Emerald Ash Borer Beetle does not fly very good at all, it will come into our state from infested firewood or infested nursery stock or both.

More information on how to identify EAB, what treatment options exist, and how the public can ready themselves is available at [www.eabne.info](http://www.eabne.info) Research so far suggests no ash cultivars or varieties native to the U.S. are resistant to EAB, but research is continuing.

No treatment is needed until EAB has been detected within 15 miles of your location. If your tree has EAB-like symptoms, such as canopy thinning, branch dieback or D-shaped exit holes, have a certified arborist examine the tree. We also have Nicole Stoner, a certified arborist at the Extension Office in Beatrice that has an entomology background, teaching Master Gardener classes in Saline County and is keeping a close watch.



Generally, ash trees are worth considering for treatments if they are within 15 miles of an infestation, are in good health and are in a good location for your landscape.

For more information about whether to treat a tree, see the publication “Emerald Ash Borer Guidelines for Nebraska Homeowners.” This and other publications and information about EAB can be found at [nfs.unl.edu/EAB](http://nfs.unl.edu/EAB)

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