

## Position Statement by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, North Dakota Forest Service, and NDSU Extension on the practice of insecticide treatment for emerald ash borer.



NDSU

EXTENSION

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA), North Dakota Forest Service (NDFS), and NDSU Extension (NDSU-Ext) do not advocate the use of insecticides in North Dakota for the treatment of emerald ash borer (EAB) at the present time.

The nearest known infestation of EAB is Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. There are no known populations of EAB in North Dakota. The nearest U.S. infestations are the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota area and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Once EAB is detected in North Dakota, ash trees within 15 miles of an infestation may be at risk and treatment of high value ash trees along streets or in yard settings may be warranted. It is not practical to treat ash trees in woodlots, shelterbelts, or other large tree plantings.

Each year EAB is found in new locations, sometimes far from previously known infested areas, so it is important to be aware of the current known distribution of the pest. Current maps of known EAB populations can be found at [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info).

Insecticides treatments for EAB continue to be a work in progress; however cost-effective treatment protocols are now available to preserve high value ash trees through outbreaks. Homeowners must be sure to weigh the costs of treatment with the value of their ash tree and also with removal and replacement costs. Reference information for EAB insecticide trials can be found at [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info). After EAB arrives in North Dakota, research will be needed to determine which products and which methods of application will work best for ash growing under North Dakota conditions.

The NDDA, NDFS, and NDSU-Ext emphasize the need to increase tree species diversity and remove unhealthy, low-value ash from the landscape. Cooperative efforts will continue to focus on outreach regarding the dangers of firewood transport and surveying high risk sites for EAB. The public can play an important role by becoming familiar with the signs and symptoms of EAB and reporting suspicious situations.

**June 2018**