

Emerald Ash Borer

The Town of Georgina has been infested with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) for a number of years and virtually all mature Ash trees have been affected. The EAB was first found in Canada in 2002. It is a highly invasive insect that attacks and feeds on all species of ash trees, killing them within one to three years.

Ash trees are widespread on public and private properties throughout Georgina, accounting for 19 per cent of the Town's current tree population. The Town has taken many preventative steps including creating an inventory of Ash trees, conducting regular health assessments, and performing thousands of removals of dead or dying trees.



How do you know if a tree is infected?

The most definitive evidence of EAB infestation is the characteristic "D-shaped" holes created by the adult beetle emerging from the bark. Other symptoms may include thinning of the crown (loss of leaves), discolouration of leaves and suckering along the main trunk.

Tree removal project (2022 to 2024)

This tree removal program is being expanded to accelerate the removal of ash trees as a large portion of the inventory is becoming of higher risk. The new program will remove all affected trees on municipal property within the Town over a three-year period, 2022 to 2024.

Where is the Town currently working to remove trees?

Phase 1 is currently underway, and includes smaller, dense populations of trees that were previously queued for removal, and are required to be completed in the winter and spring period of 2022. These areas include Willow Beach, De La Salle Park, Duclos Point Road, rear of Jersey Public School, Silverstone Crescent, Mourning Dove Road and Elizabeth Street.

Phase 2 will start at the beginning of May 2022. This phase will include sweeping removals of entire areas.

Removal process

Under the Town's phased Ash Tree Removal and Replacement Program, the Forestry Services Division removes only municipally owned trees. Once an ash tree on municipal property has been identified, and its health has been confirmed as dead or dying, it is tagged with an orange marking for removal. On regional roads, trees are tagged with a green marker. The regional program is close to completion, and as such most Ash trees within the regional right of way have been removed.

Ash trees on private property

Ash trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. If a resident decides to remove an ash tree on their property, a certified arborist should be contacted. All costs associated with assessment, removal and replacement on private property are the responsibility of the property owner.

For a list of certified arborists in your area, visit treesaregood.org or call 1-888-463-2316.

Tree replanting project (2023 to 2025)

A replanting plan is also part of this program to ensure the Town maintains a healthy tree canopy and is anticipated to be delivered in phases through 2022 to 2025. The Town's certified arborist supported by the landscape planner will select the replanting locations and tree species to create a diverse and pest resistant urban tree canopy. The replanting program will include a variety of native tree species chosen for their hardiness and suitability for urban environments in Georgina. Not all trees will be replaced.



To learn more about the Emerald Ash Borer, visit georgina.ca/EAB.