



# Neighbors Against Bad Bugs:

Empowering Indiana's public to combat emerald ash borer

Authors: Annemarie M. Nagle and Cliff Sadof



**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** is an invasive Asian beetle that threatens to kill nearly 100% of ash trees that are not protected with insecticides. In city and suburban environments, where ash is widely planted in the landscape, **the majority of the costs for EAB management are borne by Indiana's property owners.**

**What is at Stake?** Landscape trees increase property values, aid in storm water management, and provide energy savings in homes and businesses. EAB can devastate all the ash trees in an area in just 2-3 years, which can denude previously shady, tree-lined streets. **Trees killed by EAB are very dangerous, and can drop limbs or fall on people or property.**

Many homeowners only find out about the magnitude of EAB's damage **AFTER** their trees have started to die. **By then, it is too late.**



**Proactive Management** of community ash resources can save money, save trees, and preserve the aesthetics of neighborhoods.

**The NABB Program** is here to help your neighborhood prepare for EAB's arrival. It is a collaborative initiative that teams Purdue Master Gardeners, neighborhood associations, county extension educators, and concerned citizens to empower community members to determine best management practices for the trees in their neighborhoods. The program:

- ❖ **Motivates action before the arrival of EAB**
- ❖ **Raises awareness of where ash trees are through ash identification and tree tagging**
- ❖ **Educates communities about EAB management options and where to get research-based information**
- ❖ **Provides advice for contracting with tree-care professionals**

For more information about NABB and preparing your community for EAB, contact your local Purdue Extension Educator at 1-888-EXT-INFO (1-888-398-4636) or the Purdue EAB Outreach Team at (765)494-0822



Loss of neighborhood ash trees due to EAB

## Some Ash Can be Saved

from EAB. Many people think their only option is to cut ash trees down. Research by university scientists has shown that **certain insecticides can effectively protect trees.** Not all ash trees can or should be treated, and not all insecticides will kill EAB. Only healthy, vigorously growing, high-value trees should be considered for treatment, and early action is key to saving them.

**Don't let EAB decide how your neighborhood looks.**

**Get Planning!**  
Visit the NABB page at:  
[www.eabindiana.info](http://www.eabindiana.info)



# NABB: A guide to action!

Authors: Annemarie M. Nagle and Cliff Sadof

## Start Planning for EAB Now!

### 1. Find out where ash trees are.



Large ash trees tagged in a West Lafayette neighborhood as part of the NABB Program

Create an ash inventory with your neighbors. Decide which ash trees are healthy, valuable, and potentially worth saving. Contact your city forester and ask if there is an EAB management plan in place.

Begin removing ash trees that are sick or planted in poor locations, such as under utility lines. **Insecticide treatments should begin when EAB is found within 15 miles of your trees.**

### Hold a tree tagging event in your community to show people which trees are at risk of death by EAB.

### 2. Consider professional help.

A certified tree-care professional can help with deciding which trees are good treatment candidates. Some insecticide treatments, especially those for larger trees, can only be applied by a professional. Find a tree-care service in your area at [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com).

**Teaming up with your neighbors can really pay off! Negotiating large contracts with tree-care companies to treat or remove many trees at once can often result in lower costs for everyone.**

### 3. Plant new trees now.

Give your new landscape a jump start by planting trees that EAB will not attack. Early planting gives young trees time to grow before all the ash are lost.

*Visit [www.eabindiana.info](http://www.eabindiana.info) for more management tips!*



A young oak planted between two ash trees

## Can you ID an Ash Tree?

Ash trees are common in Indiana



Leaves are feather-like, seeds are paddle-shaped



Branches and buds are **OPPOSITE** one another



Branches and buds of **OTHER** types of trees alternate

