

Millions of Ash Trees Have Been Killed by the Emerald Ash Borer

This insect is now infecting Ash trees in Warrington, PA & is expected to arrive here soon

We have been advised by the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) experts that Bucks & Montgomery Counties have become the most recent areas where this devastating Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation has been discovered. This small (1/2") insect has been the subject of much research since it was first detected in the upper Midwest in 2002. The economic and aesthetic impact has been staggering as it has spread easterly.

We have prepared a fairly extensive 8 page color document that will provide you with immediate information on the subject; it includes pictures, many hyperlinks to other resources as well as tools to help you better understand the issue in order to **decide what your best options are**.

This one page summary is being sent to give you a general notice of the situation and to urge you to **go to our community website** (www.RiverwoodsAtNewHope.org) to access the Emerald Ash Borer page where you will find the entire 8 page document mentioned above and more. That document has color pictures & illustrations, helpful videos and hyperlinks to many reference sources as well as more detailed content on the specific issues facing you and all of the members of the Riverwoods Homeowners Association. The entire **8 page document will also be emailed** to those homeowners who have subscribed to the website update services; this unfortunately is still only about 50% of all of our community residents. See also an [excellent article](#) from the Philadelphia Inquirer dated 3/16/14.

Make no mistake, **every homeowner in Riverwoods will be affected whether there is an Ash tree on or near their property or not**. There are Ash trees in the Common Area and there are Ash trees on some of the private property lots. The costs associated with Ash trees on the Common Property will be borne by all residents, the costs associated with the Ash trees on your private property are your responsibility. Realize that it takes 2-3 years after infestation to kill an untreated tree, so dealing with the ravages of this insect will be spread out over time, and we have no specific evidence that the EAB is actually present yet in Riverwoods. The DCNR has no funding to track infestations or their progress. We are on our own. The Borough of New Hope is beginning to address this issue also but only with regard to the Ash trees on its municipal property.

The first step is to evaluate the presence, or not, of Ash trees on your property (one of the videos is very helpful); leaves do not need to be in bloom. You will then have to make a decision what to do about the Ash trees on your property (a Decision Tree to guide you is included in the document). An arborist can help if you need additional help, the Board does not have that capability. We plan to have an Ash tree survey done on the Common property soon so that we can develop a multi-year plan to deal with the impact and costs.

The basic options are insecticide treatment, remove & replace the Ash trees, do nothing or a combination depending on your specific property. Be aware that dead Ash trees become brittle and consequently more prone to being felled by the elements. Their distance from your home is an important consideration in your decision making. The website will be updated as necessary and update notification emails will be sent to subscribers. To subscribe, please email to info@RiverwoodsAtNewHope.com, insert "OK to email" in the subject & include your address.

PS If you are unable to access a computer you can contact Jon Kotler of CPM at 215-343-1550.