



# Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

Shade Tree Commission  
Municipal Complex  
1. Municipal Plaza  
Monroe Township, N.J. 08831  
732-521-4400

## AGENDA TOWNSHIP OF MONROE SHADE TREE COMMISSION

For Tuesday, July 5, 2016 Shade Tree Commission Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

- I. Call to order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call:

Pamela Broskie, Secretary	Charles Petretti, Commissioner
Lucille DiPasquale, Chairwomen	Michael Leibowitz, Council Liaison
Darren Kutz, Vice Chairman	Leonard Baskin, Alternate I
Phil Levy, Commissioner	Lorraine Sarhage, Alternate II
Nick Parente, Commissioner	Gary Lovallo, Tree Assessor
Shaun Hluchy, Commissioner	John Riggs, Conservation Officer
Stanley Geltzeiler, Commissioner	Peg Schaffer, Attorney
- IV. **SUNSHINE LAW:** In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it is hereby announced and shall be entered into the minutes of this meeting that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by the following:
  - a. Posted on January 8, 2016 on the Bulletin Board of the Office of the Township Clerk in the Municipal Building, 1 Municipal Plaza and remains posted at that location for public inspection;
  - b. Printed in the HOME NEWS TRIBUNE and CRANBURY PRESS on January 8, 2016;
  - c. Posted on the Bulletin Boards within the Municipal Complex
  - d. Posted on the Monroe Township Website; and
  - e. Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.
- IV Applications: None
- V. Old Business/New Business:
  1. Ash Tree Issues
  2. Chairwoman DiPasquale: Articles of Interest
  3. Gary Lovallo: Inspections and/or reports: Spring Tree Planting
  4. John Riggs: Reports/Tree Log
  5. Pamela Broskie: Give aways for events

Next meeting is on September 6, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

## Resources

# Landscaping that's easier on you and the planet

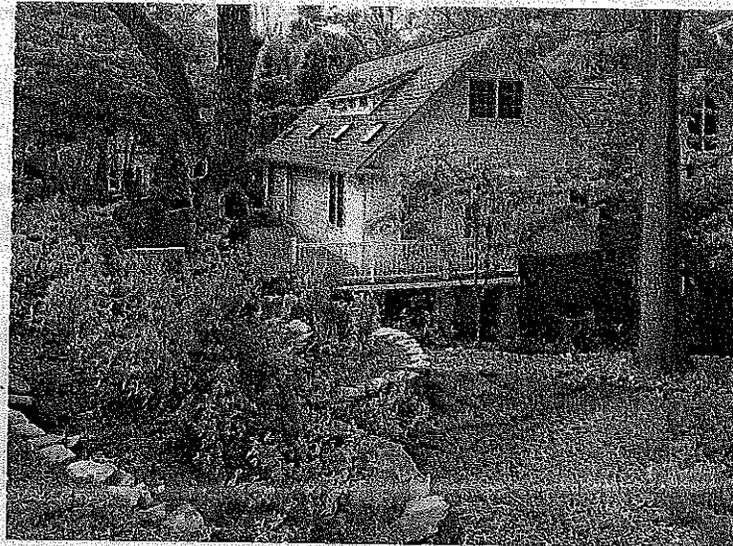
**Brenda Richardson**  
*Washington Post*

Pity the poor yard. It receives constant care and attention during the spring and summer, but let a few dry spells or heavy downpours mar its beauty and efficiency and suddenly it's the bad guy.

Maybe it's time to hit the reset button. Adjustments to your landscape can conserve water, prevent erosion and produce a healthy yard that you can be proud of for its low impact on the environment.

Sustainable design is the hottest trend for residential landscapes, according to a recent survey by the American Society of Landscape Architects. The results revealed that members expect the greatest consumer demand for residential outdoor-design elements that are environmentally sustainable, reduce water costs and require little maintenance. Harvesting rainwater and greywater took the top spot in the survey of landscape projects expected to have the highest demand in 2016. Also popular are native and drought-tolerant plants, permeable paving, rain gardens, low-maintenance landscapes and water-efficient irrigation.

Laura Allen, author of "The Water-Wise Home" and co-founder of Greywater Action, a collaborative that leads workshops and presentations on greywater — water coming from sinks, showers and washing machines — believes that many conventional landscapes prevent water from being used



According to a recent survey from the American Society of Landscape Architects, sustainable design is the hottest trend for residential landscapes. John McDonnell/Washington Post

as a liquid asset.

"Most yards are designed without consideration for the climate and natural rainfall patterns," she said. "People often shape their landscapes to remove rainwater from the property, and then they have to water more."

She advocates designing a landscape to capture the rainwater so it will soak into the ground and deeply charge the soil with moisture.

You can start small and make incremental changes to the landscape. Consider consulting with a landscape-design professional who specializes in sustainable practices to get an idea of the scope of the work. Also, check local codes to ensure compliance with building and landscape ordinances.

"People can choose the easi-

est projects for their landscape," Allen said. "They can put in a simple rainwater-catchment system that will collect free water the first time it rains. If they build a greywater system using their washing machine water, they can build it in one or two days. And then every time they do laundry, they will be irrigating a portion of their landscape."

If you are building a new home, addition, patio or driveway, try to minimize hard surfaces that can't absorb water by installing pervious concrete or pavers, which allow rainwater to seep into the ground.

"Many people have a fully paved driveway, and they may only need strips of concrete for the tires to drive on or a parking space," Allen said. "Also, there are nonpermeable options like gravel. Interlocking pavers have

openings in the middle. Plant can grow in them, and rain can soak in them. Someone designing a new landscape can design the landscape to soak up as much rainwater as possible."

Choose native plants that coexist rather than compete with the environment. Once established, the vegetation requires little water beyond normal rainfall.

Many civic landscapes showcase demonstration sites that are designed to encourage responsible landscaping.

If you visit the Smithsonian's National Zoo, find inspiration for a water-wise landscape at the Speedwell Foundation Conservation Carousel. Near the menagerie of colorful hand-carved animals is a rain garden strategically placed to intercept stormwater runoff and hold it until it can be fully absorbed into the ground.

"The Smithsonian has an LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold directive for our large projects," said Jennifer Daniels, the zoo's senior landscape architect. "Animals have a relationship with the land. We are obligated to do the right thing."

The rain garden adds to the educational and sustainable components of the solar-powered carousel exhibit. The objective is to take pressure off the District's storm sewers.

"If one home puts in a rain garden, it's a critical first step to encourage the entire community to work together on ways to contribute to the healthy function of the watershed," Daniels said.

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# Here's Mercer County's plan to handle new invasive, tree-killing beetles

By Anna Merriman | For NJ.com

[Email the author](#)

on May 24, 2016 at 4:47 PM

An invasive beetle species known to kill ash trees has been descending on towns in the area – but Mercer County officials have a plan.

The county park commission announced Tuesday that they will start monitoring ash trees in the area with purple ribbons, looking for signs of the emerald ash borer beetle (EAB), which lays larvae in the bark of ash trees.

As the larvae grow, they consume the wood beneath the bark and adult beetles eat the tree's leaves. They essentially kill the tree over a few years and move on to another ash tree.

The beetles, originally from Asia, moved to New Jersey in 2014 and were present in Ewing, Hamilton, Hopewell, Princeton and West Windsor **just last year**.

"It is expected that 99 percent of ash trees will be gone after EAB has moved through this region," the park commission wrote in a statement Tuesday.

But the purple ribbon plan could curb the amount of damage created by the beetles.

The park commission is tying the ribbons to trees on their property throughout the county, each of which will contain an ID number for the tree.

The Park Commission will then monitor the health of the trees and will either treat them to prevent the beetle infestation, cut them down to protect other trees from the beetles or continue to monitor them.



Beetle on rampage through N.J.

The first step in the plan is to conduct a tree survey of ash trees in the area.

Though the plan only pertains to the park commission's own land, the commission urges homeowners to look for ash trees on their property and watch them for signs of EAB infestation.

Ash trees can be identified by their leaves – which have five to seven leaflets each – and twig buds - which look like small chocolate chips - the commission said.

The commission added that residents can look for sprouts or branches around the base of their ash trees.

"These sprouts usually arise when the ash tree is stressed. Another sure sign of EAB presence is the distinct woodpecker damage seen from extracting EAB larvae," they said in a statement.

Anyone with concerns about their ash trees can call the New Jersey Division of Agriculture at **(609) 406-6939**.

*Anna Merriman may be reached at [amerriman@njadvancemedia.com](mailto:amerriman@njadvancemedia.com). Follow her on Twitter [@anna\\_merriman](#) Find *The Times of Trenton* on Facebook.*

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has triggered. In his first statement since Friday morning, "leave" leader and for-

SEE BREXIT, 9

STATEHOUSE

# GOP lawmakers: We're ready to override a Christie veto

Claude Brodesser-Akner  
For The Star-Ledger

TRENTON — It took seven years, but state lawmakers say they expect this week to finally override a Gov. Chris Christie veto.

Three Republican senators told NJ Advance Media they plan to vote to override the governor's repeated vetoes of enabling legislation (S-969) that would create a permanent, dedicated source of state funding to preserve open space, farmland and historical sites.

The prime sponsor of an identical bill (A-780) in the Assembly says she's "confident" it has enough votes to override Christie in the Assembly.

"The voters have spoken, and this is what they want," said Christopher "Kip" Bateman (R-Somerset), one of the bill's prime sponsors.

In 2014, 65 percent of New Jersey voters approved a constitutional amendment that would dedicate 4 percent of the state's corporate taxes toward open space preservation, and expand that to 6 percent by 2019.

About \$100 million has since been collected since the amendment passed, but not a penny has been spent because Christie has twice vetoed the enabling legislation, most recently in May.

Instead of using the funds for the long-term preservation of land that voters approved, the governor tried to use a fifth of the money to pay the salaries of Department of Environmental Protection and

SEE VETO, 2

*Star-Ledger 6/27/16*

moving, cheering and dancing along the route. Many

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## VETO

FROM 1

parks department staffers.

After Christie's re-purposing of those funds was declared unconstitutional by the Office of Legislative Services, he declined to sign into law the enabling legislation preventing the use of any of the open space funds.

"I understand the governor wants more flexibility, but flexibility leads to lack of concern about historical preservation, which is important to me," said Sen. Diane Allen (R-Burlington). "That's why I will be voting to override."

Likely joining Allen is the Republican conference leader, Sen. Robert Singer (R-Ocean), who said voters' clear intent to use the money to preserve land in the nation's most densely populated state took precedent over operating in lock-step with the governor.

"I've never voted to override the governor," said Singer. "But if there's going to be an override, it'll certainly be on open space, based on the majority of public saying that's what they want."

However, one formerly close Christie ally, state Sen. Joe Kyriillos (R-Monmouth), cautioned that the situation was still "fluid" and votes could change in the days to come.

To pass the Senate, a minimum of three Republican senators would need to break ranks if all Senate Democrats voted for it.

"I can't imagine there'd be any Democrats against this," said Senate Democratic Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg (D-Bergen). "This is the most densely popu-

lated state in the nation."

Weinberg predicted that a combination of local political realities and the governor's national aspirations would finally embolden Republicans to follow Garden State voters' original intent and override Christie.

"His popularity rating is in the sewer, so I guess they're not worried about that," said Weinberg. "Plus, the guy is definitely on his way out. His vetoes have become more and more out of tune with New Jersey residents as his national aspirations grew."

The Senate has voted to override a Christie veto before, but never succeeded in getting the lower house to go along.

In October, the Senate voted to overturn Christie's veto of legislation that would have included police in the judicial process of deciding whether a person with a documented mental illness could get a gun permit.

That override attempt failed in the Assembly, but lawmakers say that's unlikely to happen in the case of the open space legislation, should it clear the Senate.

Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttie (D-Bergen) noted that since their failed override attempt in October, Democrats have picked up three seats in the lower house thanks to the November election. Currently, Assembly Democrats enjoy the biggest majority since 1979, which means that just two Republicans would need to vote for the bill.

"I am confident we have the votes," Huttie said.

Claude Brodesser-Akner, NJ Advance Media, cbrodesser@njadvancemedia.com

- An EAB infestation is always fatal to ash trees. Infested trees decline from the top down and will be dead in 1 to 3 years, even if the trees were healthy before being attacked by the EAB. Stressed or damaged trees appear to attract the beetles.
- Cut and stacked ash wood more than 1 year old can harbor viable EAB larvae and continue to pose a risk for the pest's artificial spread.

### **Ash Tree Treatments**

Because research is ongoing, and pesticide regulations differ from State to State, homeowners should contact their State department of agriculture or local extension office for current guidelines regarding pesticide use for EAB-infested trees.

Pesticides can serve as a control measure for the EAB, but they are not a cure.

Homeowners with individual, high-value ash trees can buy federally-approved insecticides at retail outlets or have their trees treated by State-certified pesticide applicators. Options include systemic and topical insecticides. These compounds will need to be applied on a regular basis, possibly several times within one growing season, and even then might not completely prevent the EAB from attacking an ash tree. In EAB-infested areas, even treated trees are likely to succumb to continued attacks from the pest as beetle populations increase.

### **What You Can Do To Stop the Spread of the EAB**

Detecting, controlling, and preventing the human spread of the EAB is a huge undertaking. Cooperation among Federal and State government agencies, municipalities, universities, the green industry, and the public is essential to minimize the impacts of this pest.

Here are some things you can do now to support the cooperative program and contribute to safeguarding the ash resource in the United States.

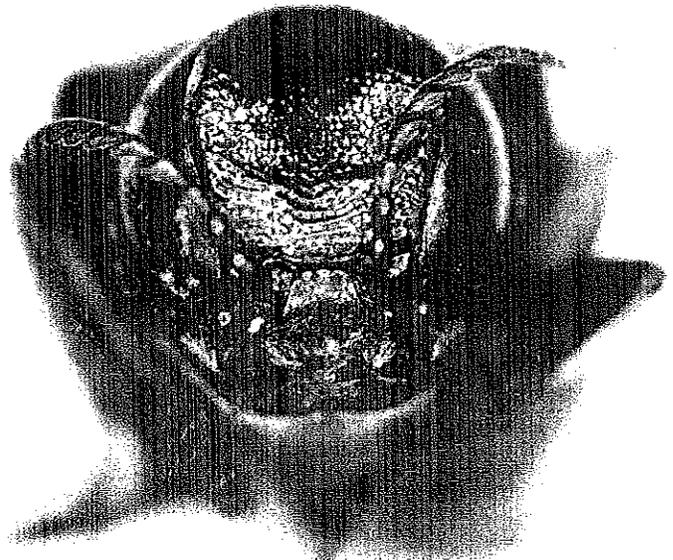


United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Program Aid No. 1769

# **Emerald Ash Borer**

## ***The Green Menace***





**Figure 1—The adult EAB, an exotic wood-boring beetle, attacks ash trees exclusively.**

**T**he emerald ash borer (EAB) is a very small but very destructive beetle. Metallic green in color, its slender body measures 1/2-inch long and 1/8-inch wide. The average adult beetle can fit easily on a penny.

Native to China and eastern Asia, the EAB probably arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to ship consumer goods, auto parts, and other such products. Although no one can say for certain when the EAB arrived in southeastern Michigan, the scientific community now believes the beetle may have been present for up to 12 years before it was detected, based on its widespread distribution and destruction. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officially identified the EAB in the summer of 2002.

This beetle is responsible for the death or decline of tens of millions of ash trees. At press time (June 2009), EABs have been detected in 13 States (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) and parts of Canada.

### **Signs and Symptoms of EAB**

It is extremely difficult to determine whether an ash tree is or is not infested with the EAB because tree decline is usually gradual. Early symptoms of an infestation might include dead branches near the top of a tree or wild, leafy shoots growing out from its lower trunk. D-shaped exit holes and bark splits exposing S-shaped tunnels are significant signs of the EAB. Woodpecker activity might also indicate the presence of EABs.

If a tree is infested with the EAB, tree removal is the most effective way to eliminate these exotic pests and prevent the species' further spread. Considering the most current science, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recommends felling infested trees and properly disposing of the wood.

### **Humans Contribute to the Spread of the EAB**

In terms of the range and extent of EAB infestation in North America, human behavior is a particularly significant factor. People unknowingly contribute to the *artificial* spread of the EAB by carrying out activities that are part of everyday living and commerce. The movement of common ash tree products—such as firewood, nursery stock, green lumber, branches, logs, and chips—has been a primary means of advancing the beetle's spread.

### **EAB Quarantines in the United States**

To prevent additional artificial spread of the EAB, USDA has established quarantines to prohibit the movement of ash materials and hardwood firewood out of States where EABs are known to exist. Today, the entire States of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, together with the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, are quarantined. USDA quarantines also exist in select areas of Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New York,

Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The movement of ash material and firewood intra-state (within a given State) is also prohibited under State government quarantines. Currently, State quarantines exist in all of the above-mentioned States.

Because new EAB infestations are periodically discovered, the areas under quarantine also change. Therefore, to avoid penalties, homeowners and businesses should check with their State department of agriculture for the latest information regarding EAB quarantines prior to transporting any ash materials or firewood.

### Scientifically Speaking

Entomologists from the United States and Canada have been studying the EAB continually to learn more about its biology and behavior. Since the beetle had never been found anywhere in North America prior to 2002, information about the EAB is regularly updated.

Scientists now know that, in a temperate climate, the beetles can develop from eggs to adults in as little as 1 year. From May to August, adults emerge from overwintering sites under bark and mate. Females lay eggs in bark crevices, and the eggs hatch in about 10 days. The eggs develop into wormlike larvae, which tunnel under the bark to feed and grow throughout the fall. It is this tunneling and feeding that eventually kills the tree. Larvae lay dormant during the winter and emerge from trees in May as adults, leaving a unique D-shaped exit hole.

Here are some key discoveries scientists have made about the EAB:

- On this continent, the EAB attacks only ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.), and all the ash species—including green, white, black, and blue—are at risk. The mountain ash (*Sorbus* spp.), is not a true ash and, therefore, is not threatened by EABs.

- EAB adults are strong fliers, yet most only fly short distances (about 1/2 mile). However, under certain conditions, individual beetles are capable of flying up to several miles to infest new trees.
- Several natural enemies have been discovered attacking EAB larvae in North America, including woodpeckers and at least two species of parasitic insects. Unfortunately, these enemies have not effectively prevented trees from dying or substantially slowed the spread of the pest.

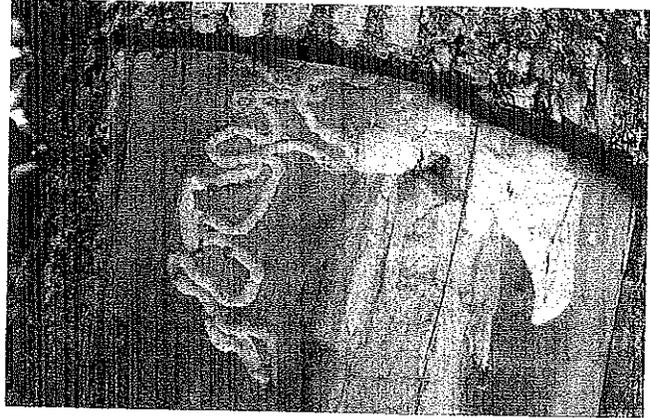


Figure 2—S-shaped tunnels, made by EAB larvae, riddle infested ash trees.

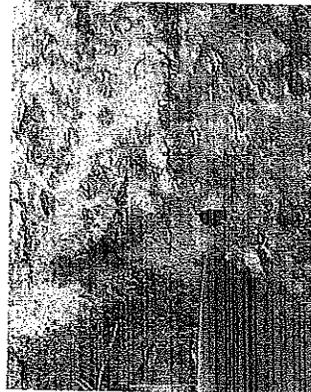


Figure 3—The D-shaped exit hole is a unique signature of the EAB.



Figure 4—Epicormic shoots are a telltale sign of a tree under stress.