



TREEmendous News

TreeMasters, Inc.

Spring, 2008

HEY, TOM!

TreeMasters' Certified Arborist, Tom Myers, recently sat down to answer some questions about the Emerald Ash Borer:

What is the Emerald Ash Borer? The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a recently introduced exotic pest of ash trees. It was discovered in 2002 in the Detroit area. Most likely, it arrived on untreated wood packaging imported from China. Since 2002 it has spread to many other states killing millions of Ash.

What does EAB do to trees? Adult EAB beetles lay eggs on ash trees. When the eggs hatch, the larvae bore into the layer of tissue just underneath the bark of the tree. The tunnels created by the larvae kill that tissue which causes the tree to decline in health. A declining Ash is more attractive to other Emerald Ash Borers and the tree will continue to be attacked the following years until the tree dies, usually within 1-3 years.

There's been a lot of hype about the EAB. Do I need to be concerned about my trees? Yes, all true Ash trees (*Fraxinus* sp.) are at risk. In areas where EAB has become established, the weaker ash trees are always the first to be attacked. This is why tree health is so important. A declining tree is the most susceptible however, in a heavily infested area all ash trees will be killed if left untreated. In the last 6 years in Detroit there have been millions of trees killed. In many areas there are large numbers of standing dead trees that are becoming hazardous due to falling limbs.

How can we stop the spread of the EAB? The spread of EAB cannot be stopped. It is far beyond the capabilities of any company or government agency. The spread IS being slowed through quarantines. While the borer can naturally spread many miles each year, the primary cause of the borer's rapid movement has been due to humans transporting firewood and nursery stock.

I have a beautiful Ash tree in my yard. What can I do to save it? The good news is that individual trees can be protected. It is up to you, the landowner, to have your high value trees protected. This annual treatment is applied (usually in the spring) to the soil near the base of the tree and is environmentally benign. The tree absorbs the product from the soil and it spreads throughout the canopy of the tree and lasts for the entire season. When the EAB begins to feed on the tree, it ingests the product and is killed.

It is up to the owner to decide whether the tree is worth the annual cost of treatment. If the Ash tree is small and/or there are other trees that occupy the same space, you should consider removal and replacement with a different type of tree.



The Oaks @ 300 S

"The Oaks @ 300s" is a rare, **limited resource in quality nursery trees**. Hundreds of 25'-35' oaks are available for transplanting. More importantly, the **price is comparable with trees half the size**. Golf clubs, municipalities, horticulture professionals, builders and homeowners can all purchase trees.

Turn-key planting services are also available.

creating better futures



Tree Engineering

Trees are both botanical and architectural. The "green" nature of a tree, its leaves and shade, are what we usually consider when discussing trees. Normally, we look at the leaves to determine if the tree is "normal". Yet one prime function of tree biology is to produce wood. The "wood engineering" of all trees is a function of species, growth conditions and the site. This growth builds the trunk, leader wood and scaffolding branches, which support the "green" part of the tree.

In many cases, we are concerned with unhealthy trees, but even green (healthy) trees can fail structurally, without a weather event, due to "bad engineering". It is important to have a clear assessment of not only the vigor, but also the structural integrity of important trees.

For some trees, the risks are too great and the tree should be removed. For trees with acceptable structural defects, cabling and bracing is a procedure which can insure the tree for decades to come.

These inspections and repairs should be done by a trained arborist. If you have a tree with cracks, hollows, or co-dominate stems, call and have an inspection from TreeMasters, Inc.

Spring is the best time to have your trees inspected so that you can create your personal tree-care plan. Contact our arborists today!

Vigilance in tree-care now results in beautiful landscapes for a lifetime



TreeMasters, Inc.

making a better future for your trees... and the environment

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**SPRING IS THE BEST
TIME TO CREATE YOUR
TREE-CARE PLAN!**

The Benefits of Planting Trees

When thinking about creating value in your landscape, think trees! Trees around your home can increase its value up to 20%, according to the Management Information Services. In fact, a mature tree can have a value of \$1000-\$10,000 (Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers)!

Other than their natural beauty, trees provide many values to homeowners:

- ****** Street trees help shade the concrete and help cool the entire neighborhood.
- ****** A windbreak can help lower your heating bills 10-20%.
- ****** Shade trees planted to the south and west of your home can cut cooling costs by 15-30%.
- ****** A backyard orchard lets you grow your own fruit.
- ****** Nut trees can be incorporated into windbreaks or serve as shade trees.
- ****** Trees stabilize slopes and anchor the soil; during heavy rains, mudslides and floods occur on denuded land.
- ****** Trees are the only home feature guaranteed to grow in value over time.

Trees are on the job 24 hours a day to improve your life, so this spring, please plant a tree!

Tree Expertise: Always Available

The TreeMasters, Inc. employees are in the office every day to help you with all your tree-care questions and concerns.

You can contact us by:

Phone- (260) 447-0171 or Fax- (260) 447-7827

Or directly by email:

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When the office is closed, you can still take advantage of our expertise online, at:

www.TREEmendousDay.com

We look forward to speaking with you and to helping you solve your tree-care issues soon!