



# TREEmendous News

TreeMasters, Inc.

Fall, 2009

## Emerald Ash Borer Update

... From the Desk of Jeffrey Ling, RCA, Co-Owner of TreeMasters

EAB is now evident in most Fort Wayne neighborhoods. It has spread throughout NE Indiana and is now also in central Indiana and the Hoosier National Forest!

Homeowners and property managers are at the critical decision point. If ash trees are not protected in 2009-2010, you should consider them lost and plan to remove the trees. Not since the loss of the elms in the 50's - 60's will the city's and homeowner's landscape be so radically altered.

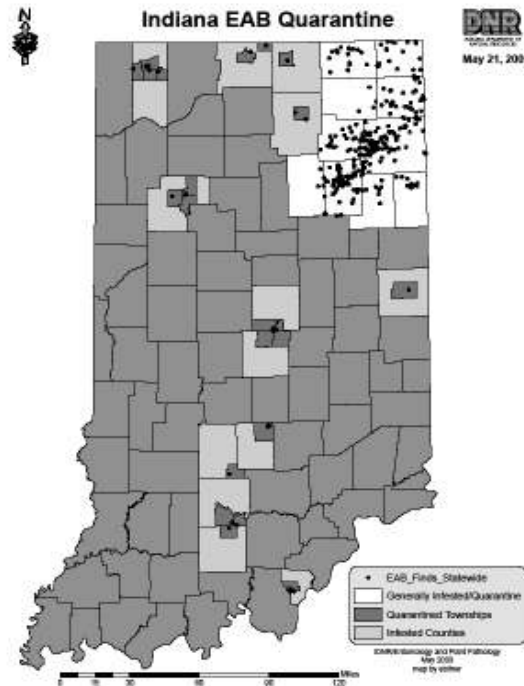
I have been appointed a commissioner for Fort Wayne's Tree Commission. We are wrestling with the loss of over 12,000+ public ash trees and the costs of treating several thousand of the city's important trees. As the only commercial arborist on this working group, I often remind the members that 90% of the ash trees in the city are private trees. Many citizens consider the park strip trees part of their private landscape. Though many "public" ash were treated, they will not be next year! If you want your park strip ash saved, you must take responsibility.

If you wish to see the effects of the ash Borer and the benefits of treatments, compare Fort Wayne International Airport ash trees with those that remain at Brookwood Golf Course. TreeMasters has been providing arbor-care at FWA for several years, including EAB treatments. To date, no infestation has been found there; however just a 1/4 mile east, Brookwood GC has lost over 100 ash trees and hundreds more are failing. The losses are very visible now! This is a classic example of

the axiom, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". It also illustrates the next three years in Fort Wayne's prospective future.

New information from Detroit should create hope for us. As the epicenter for EAB starting in 2002, only the trees treated still stand green. Millions of ash in Metro SE Michigan, are dead! Now there are discussions that the bug may have become extinct locally, because the trees the bug feeds on are either dead or treated; the EABs have no where to go. Now 7 years later, there is strong opinion that treatment can go to an alternative year schedule, i.e. half cost!

Again for this and other tree pest and disease issues, call us. Tom and I, as tree doctors, still make house calls!



## Value Your Trees

**"Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20 - 50 percent in energy used for heating."**

—USDA Forest Service

Trees have much value, both tangibly and intangibly. You can find out more about the value of your trees by going to our website, [www.TreemendousDay.com](http://www.TreemendousDay.com).

## Protect Your Trees

Damage caused by deer browsing on trees and shrubs can be a problem in some rural and suburban areas. You can protect your trees and ornamental plants by using Deer Guard, a pre-mixed, ready-to-use deer repellent that sprays on milky and dries clear. The active ingredient, bitter tasting Bitrex, locks onto the plant surface forming a "protective jacket" which resists dew, snow, rain and vaporization. The result is an effective, long-lasting, repellent.

*We hope that, when the insects take over the world, they will remember with gratitude how we took them along on all our picnics. ~Bill Vaughan*



# TreeMasters, Inc.

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

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## **Evergreens in Indiana**

Nearly every landscape has evergreens: spruce, pines, juniper, cedar and cypress in hundreds of cultivars, shapes and sizes. All share one reality: here in Indiana, they are exotic plants— planting evergreens is no different than a planting a palm tree!

This year TreeMasters is receiving many reports of excessive needle drop/loss. Why? Nearly all evergreens planted in our area are “dry site species” They don’t like wet roots and begin to fail if the soil remains wet for several weeks - disease sets in and the tree/shrub declines.

High humidity and high soil moistures will foster root rot and parasitic fungi which kill and “eat” the roots of evergreens. Have you ever seen a spruce tree flipped over, laying on its side, with the “root plate” in the air? It may have been precipitated by a storm, but the problem is not wind; it is actually root loss from fungi! The contributing factors: heavy clay soils, thick mulch, being planted too deep, excessive irrigation.

There are also insects which are defoliators (they eat the needles). Near-epidemic levels of bag worms have spread through out NE Indiana, attacking spruce and arborvitae. Likewise, mites, in high populations, can “scrape” all the chlorophyll off the needles. The needles will then be cast off and the tree will not have the vigor it should.

Selected Fungi attack the needles and twigs. Again, this is advanced by a micro-climate of high humidity – too much water.

Managing trees is our business... Protecting trees is a part of that mission. If you have evergreens, let’s be sure they are in good condition... and if not, we can formulate a preservation plan to insure their value, future size and contribution to your landscape.