Ringwood Environmental Commission

April 2020 Bulletin – Invasive Spotlight

Ringwood is host to dozens of invasive species. The Ringwood Environmental Commission works with local and state resources to identify the species that have the greatest effect on our borough and especially the homeowners. The last two years we have focused on gypsy moths, but the emerald ash borer beetle is now well established in the borough. This update covers these two threats.

Gypsy Moth 2019 Activity and 2020 Outlook

There are two main methods for Ringwood to gauge its gypsy moth population. The first is conducted around peak moth infestation time. This is done via an aerial survey of the area. 2019 showed a marked decrease in Ringwood overall, but homeowner experience does not match this. The second is an egg mass survey done in the autumn. Both surveys showed a decrease in activity. Here is a historical analysis of the State surveys:

Year	Ringwood				New Jersey			
	Moderate	Heavy	Severe	Total	Moderate	Heavy	Severe	Total
2019	88	-	-	88	1,211	493	-	1,704
2018	-	456	-	456	626	3,134	-	3,760
2017	-	1,735	-	1,735	640	10,124	2,783	13,547
2016	-	-	-	-	6,648	5,950	851	13,449
2015	-	12,744	820	13,564	3,622	161,416	125,658	290,696
2014	63	-	-	63	917	272	141	1,330
2013	-	85	-	85	724	2,051	112	2,887
2012	-	-	-	-	650	418	-	1,068
2011	-	-	-	-	444	777	96	1,317
2010	-	-	-	-	1,484	2,156	173	3,813
2009	80	-	-	80	33,785	51,277	6,828	91,890
2008	151	-	-	151	21,093	146,243	171,854	339,190
2007	-	-	-	-	12,819	39,886	267,905	320,610

In addition to the State surveys, the Ringwood Environmental Commission conducted an online survey in the fall and found that 70% of over 100 respondents reported moderate to heavy damage. The survey also found that caterpillars were prevalent, but moths were not as widespread as past years. This may indicate a natural predation on the caterpillars and moths. Two thirds of respondents said this should remain a high priority for the borough. Based on the location of the responses with heavy damage, the State was advised on where to focus their egg mass surveying.

Given the information available, the State did not recommend any borough-wide spraying this year. The Ringwood Environmental Commission agrees with this stance. **If you had a heavy infestation in 2019, please contact a professional to determine the best course of action to protect your trees.**

For more information on gypsy moths, please visit http://ringwoodnj.net/filestorage/2500/2508/2019_REC_Gypsy_Moth.pdf to view last year's bulletin. It includes details on the life cycle and prevention options.

Emerald Ash Borer Beetle

The Emerald Ash Corer (EAB) has arrived in Ringwood. It has actually been in town for a few years, but 2019 was the year New Jersey added Ringwood to its list of effected towns. It is predicted to kill 99% of New Jersey ash trees over the next few years.

Background

Native to China, eastern Russia, Japan, and Korea, the EAB was first discovered near Detroit in 2002

and has since spread to 25 states, including New Jersey.

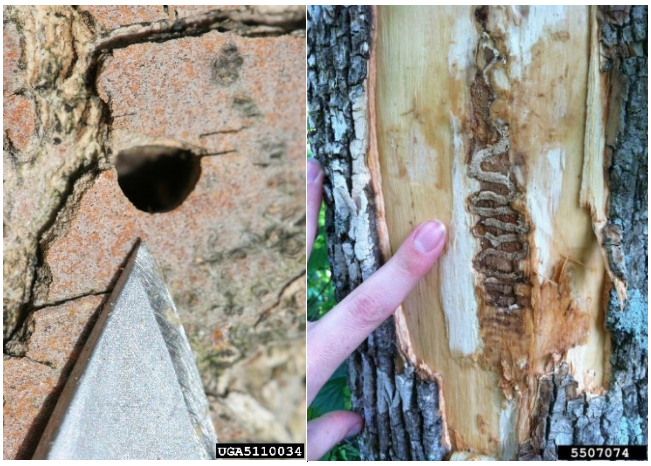
This metallic green insect infests and kills ash trees. EAB larvae feed on the inner bark and disrupt the movement of water and nutrients, essentially girdling the tree. This insect often infests the upper branches of the tree first and may affect branches as small as 1" in diameter. It takes 2-4 years for infested trees to die, but mortality is imminent.

Ringwood and the parks have already taken action to prevent damage and injury from the infected ash trees. Once a tree is infected, it must be removed to prevent it from coming down and causing damage. There is little hope in protecting the forests, but individual homeowners do have some options.

Ash Tree Identification

Ash species have opposite branches and leaves and a compound leaf with 5-11 leaflets. The bark has a unique diamond-shaped ridge on older trees, but younger trees may have smoother bark.

To determine if your tree is in trouble, look for dying branches at the top of the tree, woodpecker damage (they like to eat the EAB), galleries under the bark, D-shaped holes, and the green adult beetle.



Steps to Take

Minimally, identify your ash and monitor them. Looks for signs of infestation and visit the below link to learn more. Once infested, your tree will become weak and may even be a hazard to your home or family.

If a tree is already infested or in poor health, it may be best to remove the tree before it dies and poses a hazard to people and surrounding structures. But for those residents with high-value ash in good health, trees can be treated before they become infested.

A Certified Tree Expert can help residents evaluate, then treat or remove ash trees. Contact the Board of Certified Tree Experts at 732-833-0325 njtreeexperts@gmail.com for a list of professionals serving your area.

Report any signs. If any signs of the EAB beetle are found, call the New Jersey Department of Agriculture at 609-406-6939.

Visit www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov for more information.