

Emerald Ash Borer



ENVIRONMENT
Planning and
Development Department



What is the emerald ash borer?

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an invasive exotic insect native to East Asia. Experts estimate that it has killed over 100 million ash trees in Canada and the United States since it was discovered on our shores in 2002. Currently, at least 22 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces are affected. In June 2015, the presence of the emerald ash borer was confirmed in Vaudreuil-Dorion. This is the first time the pest has been detected in the MRC (regional county municipality) of Vaudreuil-Soulanges.



Do I have ash trees on my property?

Our area has three native species of ash: white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), red ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) and black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*). These species can all be identified by the following characteristics:

- Compound leaves composed of 5 to 11 leaflets
- Opposite branches
- Mature trees: fairly thick bark with firm ridges that intersect to form a diamond-shaped pattern. Black ash has more scaly bark.
- Young trees have smoother, thinner bark.



Signs of infestation

The signs of infestation appear three or four years after the tree is first attacked and include:

- dieback of the crown of the tree
- notched or ragged-looking leaves from adult insects feeding on them
- multiple side shoots (epicormic sprouts) growing on the trunk or branches
- small, D-shaped exit holes
- S-shaped tunnels under the bark
- vertical splits in the bark.

What should I do?

Take an inventory of your trees to determine if your ashes are healthy. Applying the biopesticide TreeAzin can protect trees. The Ville de Vaudreuil-Dorion offers grants to help defray the cost of this treatment, reimbursing 50% of the cost, up to \$200 per tree (maximum of two trees a year per property). Some conditions apply.

For severely infested trees, this treatment is ineffective. Instead, we recommend that such trees be cut down and replaced before they become weak and dangerous and to reduce the risk of the insect spreading further. Bylaw 1274 authorizes the felling of ash trees between October 1 and March 15. Financial assistance for planting replacement trees is also available.

When in doubt, contact the Patrouille verte, which can help you identify your ash trees.

If you discover emerald ash borers or signs of their presence, contact the Green Line at 450 455-3371, option 1.



What is the city doing?

In the summer of 2014, Vaudreuil-Dorion began an inventory of its public ash trees, which will continue in 2015. Again this year, traps have been installed in strategic locations to detect the presence of the emerald ash borer.

Healthy ash trees will be treated, while those in poor condition will be cut down and replaced. Before beginning sanitation cutting, the city's public works department has started to plant new trees in areas at risk of an infestation.

An action plan on ash trees on public and private land has been drawn up and will be reviewed and updated annually. It can be consulted online (Environment page of the city's website) or a paper copy can be obtained by contacting the Green Line.

Lastly, the city's environment division is available to help residents fight this pest. The Patrouille verte will be on the road all summer to help you identify ash trees and detect the emerald ash borer. You can also contact the Green Line for advice or for more information.



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