

BRIEFING NOTE:

Parks, Forestry and Recreation will implement a slow-to-spread program for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) using TreeAzin pesticide, starting the week of June 23, 2008.

A public meeting is scheduled to inform property owners and local residents of the pesticide treatment and to encourage action by residents to protect or replace ash trees.

Issue:

- Parks, Forestry and Recreation will host a public meeting on June 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Muirhead Public School, 25 Muirhead Rd., for residents to learn about the City's slow-to-spread program of control for EAB which includes:
 - using TreeAzin, a pesticide registered for injection into trees, and
 - removing trees that are determined to be heavily infested.
- The public meeting will highlight measures that residents can take to more effectively contain the movement of EAB.

Current situation:

- Parks, Forestry and Recreation will treat approximately 200 ash trees with the TreeAzin pesticide to prolong tree life and slow the spread of EAB. Pesticide treatment is expected to begin in the week of June 23, starting with trees in parks.
- The trees are located on City property in the Highway 404 and Sheppard Avenue and include Muirhead Park, Old Sheppard Park, Clydesdale Park and Wishing Well Park.
- Beetles have just started to emerge from trees, and it is expected that peak emergence will occur by late June.
- Pesticide treatment will not eliminate EAB, but will reduce the population level and consequently limit the spread of the emerging beetles to other ash trees beyond this area.
- Based on experience in southwestern Ontario, it is expected that infested trees will die within a few years of being infested. At low EAB population levels, trees take longer to succumb to the injury; at high population levels, trees succumb within one year of infestation.
- Trees on private property will not be treated. At the public meeting, residents will be encouraged to treat private ash trees, or if these trees show symptoms of infestation through summer 2008, to remove trees after the beetle flight season and destroy EAB contained within stems and branches by grinding the wood.

TreeAzin Pesticide:

- The Pest Management Regulatory Agency has recently granted an emergency registration for tree injection application of TreeAzin for use against EAB. TreeAzin contains azadirachtin, a naturally occurring substance found in the Neem tree. The pesticide is formulated to be injected into tree trunks and blocks the insect's production and release of hormones involved in metamorphosis. Tree injection minimizes the likelihood of any adverse effects on applicators, the general public, or non-target organisms.

- Well mulched and watered trees take up the chemical injection within minutes, but drought stressed trees and those scarred by mechanical damage may take several hours to receive the chemical, making the application of this pesticide more expensive. It is most effective when used on trees with a trunk diameter of less than 25 cm.
- Insecticides and other controls are less likely to protect trees due to the pressure of a large population of EAB. If trees are heavily infested and already show EAB symptoms, insecticides will be less effective and tree removal is soon required.
- Insecticide treatments must be repeated every second year, causing injuries from injection sites that may not be sustainable in small trees. For small trees, it is more cost-effective to remove and replace a tree rather than to treat it.
- The cost of injecting approximately 200 trees is estimated to be \$35,000 including labour and pesticide costs. These costs will be charged to the 2008 forestry operating budget.

Background:

- In November of 2007, an infestation of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in the Highway 404 and Sheppard Avenue area.
- EAB is a highly invasive pest that spreads very quickly and is extremely difficult to detect. Its spread can be slowed but cannot be controlled.
- On February 22, 2008, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the lead agency for dealing with invasive pests announced a Declaration and Order that regulates the treatment and movement of wood from ash trees inside and outside the City of Toronto.
- *Emerald Ash Borer Infested Place Order* regulates “firewood of all species, and trees, nursery stock, logs, lumber, wood packaging or dunnage, wood or bark, wood chips of the genus commonly known as Ash”. The Order requires that regulated materials be ground to less than 2.5 cm before being moved outside of the City limits. The Order does not regulate leaves or bagged yard waste material.
- On March 6, 2008, in partnership with the CFIA and the Canadian Forestry Services (CFS), Parks, Forestry and Recreation removed approximately 100 infested trees on public and private property within the infested area for research purposes. The CFIA distributed *Notices to Dispose* to affected property owners.
- EAB information is available on the City of Toronto website at www.toronto.ca/trees and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at www.inspection.gc.ca.

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