



Battling the Borer: What can you do?

By Adityarup Chakravorty

8500. That's the minimum number of ash trees the city of Madison will lose from its streets because of the [emerald ash borer](#), or EAB, and that number does not include ash trees on private properties or back yards. The City will also be treating close to 12000 ash trees to try and save them from the EAB. [This interactive map](#) at Madison.com tells us which city-owned ash trees are being treated and which ones cut down.

The culprit, the EAB, is a shiny green insect that could fit on a penny. It is an invasive species, and when "it arrived on our shores [it found] it had won the insect lottery—millions of acres of tasty ash, no natural enemies poised to make a dent in its growing populations, and ash trees with no natural defense against the feeding larvae," writes journalist Ron Seely in [Grow Magazine](#).

The adult EAB is harmless; though it does feed on ash leaves it doesn't affect the tree adversely. It lays

eggs on the surface of ash trees, and upon hatching the larvae immediately start chewing serpentine tunnels through the trees. These tunnels cut through the trees and stop them from effectively transporting water and nutrients, ultimately killing them.



In North America, the EAB was first discovered in Michigan in 2002 and has since killed tens of millions of ash trees across the continent. It was first found in Wisconsin in 2008, and in November 2013 the EAB was discovered in the north side of Madison.

While the ravages of the EAB will be felt across the continent and in the Madison urban forest, there are several steps we can take to help protect ash trees against this insidious invader.

- Educate yourself and build awareness. [Learn](#) what an ash tree looks like, find out if you have ash trees on your property, and learn the [signs and symptoms](#) of EAB infection.
- [Decide](#) whether to treat or remove ash trees on your property. There are [different treatment options](#) available. If you decide on removing a tree, it is much easier to remove them before they are dead. The Wisconsin Arborist Association allows you to [search for certified arborists](#) available for hire in each county.
- Follow [guidelines](#) while moving firewood or use only local firewood. The EAB is not a powerful flyer and can only expand its range slowly unless transported in infected firewood.

You can find out more about the EAB on [our website](#), through the [City of Madison](#), the University of Wisconsin–Madison [Russell Laboratory](#) and the [national EAB website](#) created by the USDA Forest Service and Michigan State University.

As we continue to battle the EAB in the present, it is important to plan ahead as well. The Urban Tree Alliance is taking steps to strengthen the Madison area urban forest against potential infestations in the future. Through the [Madison Canopy Project](#) we are planting a variety of trees in low-income,

low-canopy [neighborhoods](#), city parks and schools. Increasing the diversity of the Madison urban forest is a powerful way of protecting it from the ravages of a single pest in the future.



We're thrilled to welcome Francisco (Frankie), our new arborist apprentice, to the UTA team!

Francisco joined the Urban Tree Alliance this month. He is originally from Santiago, Chile and has lived in Madison since 2012. In Santiago, Francisco completed a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering, and since that time has held internships based on agricultural research in both Chile and Wisconsin.

Prior to working with the Urban Tree Alliance, Francisco was a Tree Care Apprentice at Allison Tree Care Inc. under the mentorship of Bruce Allison where he assisted in tree decay detection and tree pruning. He has also worked at Eplegarden and UW Madison in plant and tree care roles.



Francisco is excited to help build the Madison tree canopy by working with the community and the Urban Tree Alliance. In his free time, Francisco loves biking, being outside and spending time with his wife, Anna, and his Chilean

dog.

Francisco tambien habla espanol y esta muy entusiasmado de compartir la mision de la Urban Tree alliance con la comunidad hispanohablantes en Madison. (Francisco also speaks Spanish and is very excited to share UTA's mission with the Spanish-speaking community in Madison.)



Our Urban Forest

New trees at Marlborough Park, Emerson Elementary School, and Lakeview Elementary School

This month, with the help of our Citizen Forester volunteers, the Urban Tree Alliance planted ten trees in Marlborough Park, three trees at Lakeview Elementary School, and ten trees at Emerson Elementary School. The trees at Emerson are part of a new plan for the playground (created by UTA) that includes an outdoor classroom, kids' garden, woodland, and more!



We would especially like to thank the wonderful PTA members and fifth graders (and their teachers!) at Emerson Elementary, the many volunteers who helped plant these trees, and the eight Citizen Foresters who have 'adopted' the trees in Marlborough Park. Thank you very much!

Marlborough Park







Last week we kicked off the 2015 Madison Canopy Project tree planting season! If you would like to help us plant trees (usually on Fridays) or distribute door hangers (throughout the week), please sign up for our [Citizen Forester volunteer program](#). There's no minimum time commitment – you're free to join us whenever you like.

Citizen Foresters: Keep an eye out for our upcoming calendar of volunteer opportunities, which will be sent next week!



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The Urban Tree Alliance is a non-profit organization serving the greater Madison, WI area.

Our mission is to preserve and grow the urban forest canopy in a sustainable and innovative manner in partnership with the public.

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