

ASH CONDITION EVALUATION CRITERIA Town of Princeton

Overview: Ash trees on public and private property contribute significantly to Princeton's tree canopy. The Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), an imported beetle from Asia, has destroyed tens of millions of ash trees since it was first discovered in 2002. Neighboring states report all species of ash are vulnerable with the loss of 100% of (untreated) trees. The EAB was discovered in Princeton in 2015. Following is the evaluation criteria for decision-making on tree removal or for potential insecticide treatment:

GOOD/VERY GOOD

- Healthy, full canopy
- No apparent structural defects
- Adequate site conditions (such as unlikely to impact utility lines; sufficient growth space, etc.).
- Tree is candidate for treatment/retention program.

FAIR

- 10-30% decline in canopy
- Some structural defects
- Growing under utility lines or less than adequate site conditions
- Tree is candidate for removal within 3-5 years.

POOR

- 30-50% decline in canopy
- Multiple structural defects
- Heavily pruned, under utility lines
- Poor crown structure, including but not limited to storm damage, improper pruning, or other factors.
- Inadequate site conditions
- Tree is candidate for removal.

CRITICAL

- Greater than 50% decline
- Structural defects that warrant removal
- Low or no plant vigor
- Tree is candidate for immediate removal.