

A close-up photograph of an Emerald Ash Borer (Agrilus planipennis) beetle resting on a green leaf. The beetle has a metallic green and blue iridescent sheen. It is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing left, with its body extending towards the right. The leaf it is on has a prominent vein structure and a small hole has been eaten into it. The background is dark, making the green leaf and the beetle stand out.

# Emerald Ash Borer

## Implications for Winfield, and Policy Alternatives

Winfield Village Board – February 17, 2011

UGA2106098

# What are Emerald Ash Borers?

- Invasive species of beetle from Asia, no local predators.
- Larvae attack ash trees. Trees have no resistance, decline quickly by 2<sup>nd</sup> growing season and are dead by the 3<sup>rd</sup> season.
- Infestation first identified in Michigan in early 2000s. Most ash trees in infested areas of Michigan are now gone.

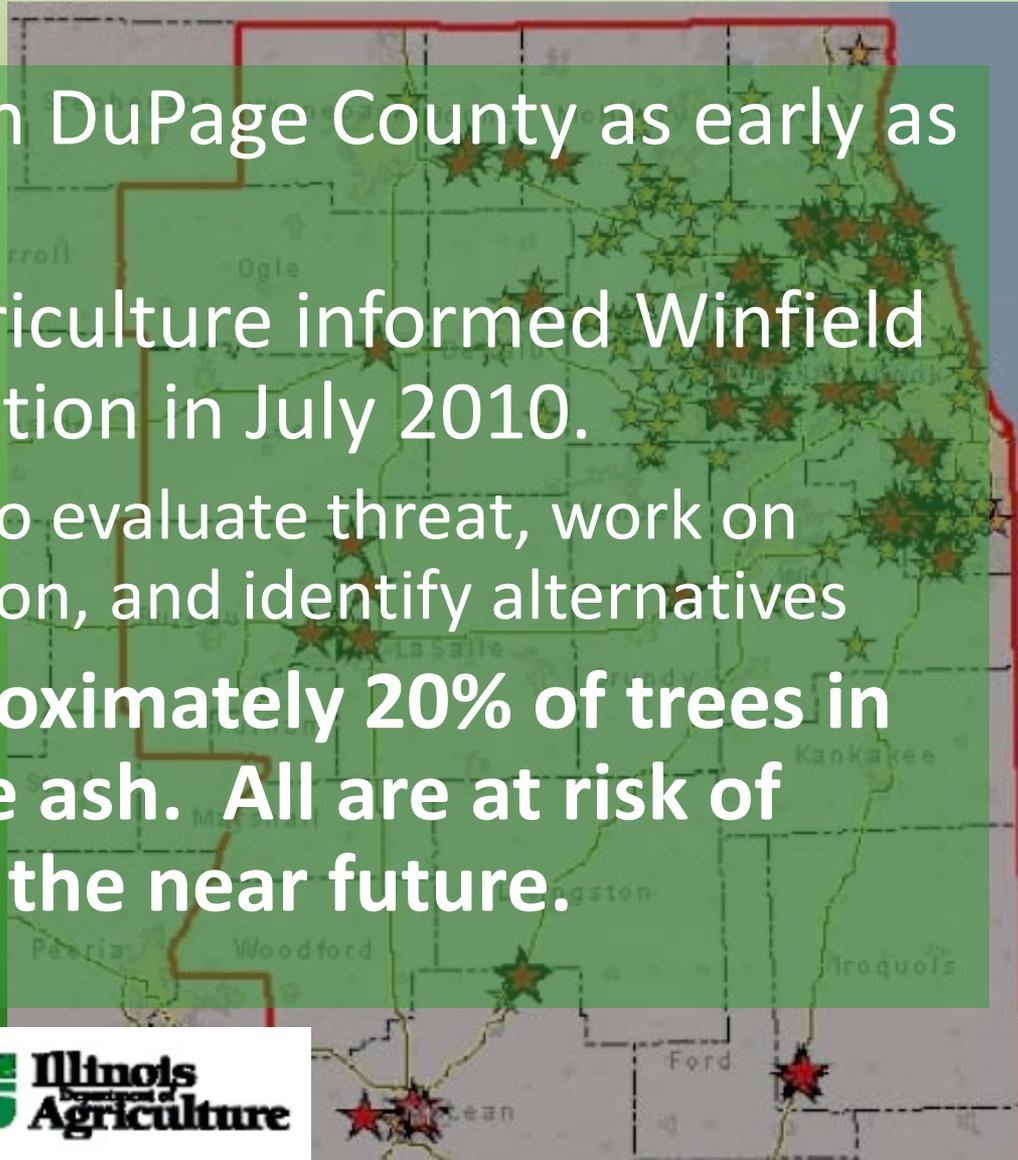


# Implications for Winfield

- EAB documented in DuPage County as early as 2006.
- Illinois Dept. of Agriculture informed Winfield of local EAB infestation in July 2010.
  - Village asked ECC to evaluate threat, work on policy, cost reduction, and identify alternatives
- **Bottom Line: Approximately 20% of trees in DuPage County are ash. All are at risk of death from EAB in the near future.**

## Legend

- ★ Detections this season (2010)
- ☆ Detections (2006-2009)
- Quarantine (10/21/2010)



# Implications for Winfield - 2

- ~900 ash trees on Village land are at risk of infestation or infested already (rough estimate from an arborist).
  - Many more ash trees are on private property.
- Dead trees will have to be removed to ensure public safety.
  - Significant cost implications – Winfield will bear this costs no matter what it decides to do.
- Illinois law: DuPage County is in the EAB quarantine zone. Wood from ash trees must be managed in accordance with Illinois regulations.



# EAB Unknowns

- The Village does not know:
  - Number or location of public ash trees
  - Health of ash trees, degree of infestation
  - Location of any “high value” ash trees
- Unless the Village has basic information:
  - Difficult to manage in accordance with Illinois law
  - Difficult to effectively use limited funds, plan for costs, or find cost reduction opportunities

# Costs of EAB

- Tree removal – dead EAB-infested trees will have to be removed. Infested ash wood must be disposed of in accordance with Illinois regulations.
  - Significant cost, even if spread out over several years
- Alternative – treatment of EAB in healthy trees is a possibility
  - Best if supervised by arborist
  - Treatment must continue for the foreseeable future (years)
  - Treatment success is not guaranteed
- Other long term costs – replacing the ~20% of public trees that will die in the near future
- Private ash trees – land owners will have to take down dead trees, and consider replanting

# What is the Village Doing

The Winfield ECC working with the Board on:

- Cost mitigation: applied for Mayors and Manager's EAB grant. An award of up to \$20K will be announced 2/18/2011
- Draft policy on how the Village can:
  - Manage public ash trees
  - Help residents manage and reduce the costs related to their infested ash trees
- Identify cost reduction alternatives:
  - Contract with nearby towns for better rates
  - Grants and outside assistance
  - Volunteer help

# Policy Options

- 1. Do nothing:** EAB will spread, dead trees taken down as complaints received
  - Possible public safety concern from unattended dead trees
  - Harder to contain costs on an ad hoc basis
- 2. Baseline information:** location and health of ash trees. Prioritize removal of dead or dying trees. Possible treatment of 'significant' trees
  - Mostly paid for by EAB grant, depending on level of award
  - Managed by ECC and volunteers
  - Tree removal and possible treatment costs still borne by Village
- 3. Tree management:** incorporate best practices to have tools to manage trees now and in the future

All policy options have costs. Management tools will help manage costs and find more cost effective alternatives

# Reference information

- Illinois Department of Agriculture EAB site:  
<http://www.agr.state.il.us/eab/>
- Regional EAB resource:  
<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>
- USDA:  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/emerald\\_ash\\_b/gallery.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/gallery.shtml)