



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found in Concord, New Hampshire in 2013. Towns in the rest of the state can reasonably expect it to arrive in coming years. There are steps towns can take right now to reduce its impact when it arrives. This checklist will help municipalities prepare. Your UNH Cooperative Extension County Forester is available to discuss these recommendations and provide additional information. Call 1-800-444-8978 to contact your local county forester. [www.nhbugs.org](http://www.nhbugs.org) has more information.

### **1. COLLABORATION**

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- Form an EAB working group of key players in your town** such as conservation commissioners, selectmen, parks and recreation, planning, and others. The group will define roles and responsibilities for EAB preparedness. Identifying a “champion” is a good idea so this person can keep momentum going.
- Engage others.** Master gardeners, Coverts Cooperators, foresters, arborist, loggers, and other partners can make your efforts more effective. These people are interested in natural resources, add expert voices to planning discussions, and can help detect EAB early.

### **2. ACTION**

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- Determine your EAB management zone on NHbugs.org and examine the current recommendations.** There are three management zones in New Hampshire. Your zone depends on how close you are to a known infestation. Detailed recommendations for homeowners and woodlot owners have been developed for each zone.
- Complete an inventory.** To plan effectively, know how many ash trees are present and, ideally, their size and condition. There are several ways to inventory. Your County Extension Forester can help you get started.
- Conduct a survey for EAB.** A late winter drive-around tour where passengers look for “blonding” is an efficient way to look for new infestations.

### **3. DECISION**

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- Triage trees for treatment and removal.** Identify high-value ash trees you’ll want to preserve through chemical treatment, as well as trees you are sure will need to be removed. You may be able to complete this step during your inventory work.
- Budget for the future.** Consider treatment, removal, and replacement costs. Your County Extension Forester can help you estimate these costs.
- Don’t plant ash.** Every ash you plant now will need to be treated or removed when EAB arrives in your town.

### **4. EDUCATION**

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- Hold a public educational program in your town.** Everyone will be affected when EAB arrives. People should know what to expect and what options are available. UNH Cooperative Extension can provide these programs in your town, free of charge.
- Hold a field training exercise.** Involve town staff as well as others who are interested. Go over ash identification and signs of EAB, especially blonding caused by woodpecker activity.
- Make EAB factsheets and information available** at town offices and the town website. See [www.nhbugs.org](http://www.nhbugs.org) for printable factsheets.