

FOREST PEST OUTREACH PROJECT MAINE

Raising Awareness of What's at Risk: How to Conduct an Ash Tree Tagging Event in Your Community

Most people have no idea how many ash trees are in their urban forest, and therefore have no idea of what's at risk until it's too late. Tree tagging events have been organized in Yarmouth, ME, Vermont, New York, and many Midwestern states as an effective way to raise awareness about the threat of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Organizers have found that after a tree tagging event, people are often surprised at the number of ash trees in their community and have a better appreciation for how important ash trees are to the landscape. People with a clear idea of how many ash trees are at risk in their yards and neighborhoods tend to act earlier to manage EAB than people who don't grasp the magnitude of the problem.

The tagging project involves attaching informational cards to ash trees using purple flagging. The tags can be removed anytime. However, we recommend removing them after a month or two, to avoid litter issues. Additionally, many landowners may only want them for a short period of time. Try to pick locations that are heavily visited, and remember to get landowner permission. Possible sites for tagging include:

- Town parks, commons, or recreation fields;
- Street trees;
- Forested recreation areas: trailheads, campgrounds, picnic areas.

More resources for organizing a tree tagging event, including a "how to" checklist, sample event announcement, tips for engaging the local media, and sample check-in sheet, can be found at: www.maine.gov/eab

The Maine Forest Service Project Canopy will provide you with laminated tree tags (as shown in the photo) and purple flagging. Contact Jan Santerre at 207-287-4987 or jan.santerre@maine.gov.

**Look UP
Maine!**

This **ASH TREE** gives back

\$83

worth of environmental benefits
EVERY YEAR.

All of Maine's ash trees could be lost to the
tree killing pest, Emerald Ash Borer.

YOU CAN HELP

- Know the pest
- Stop the spread, don't move firewood
- Look UP to look out for the pest

Learn more and report at:
www.maine.gov/eab