



# EMERALD ASH BORER

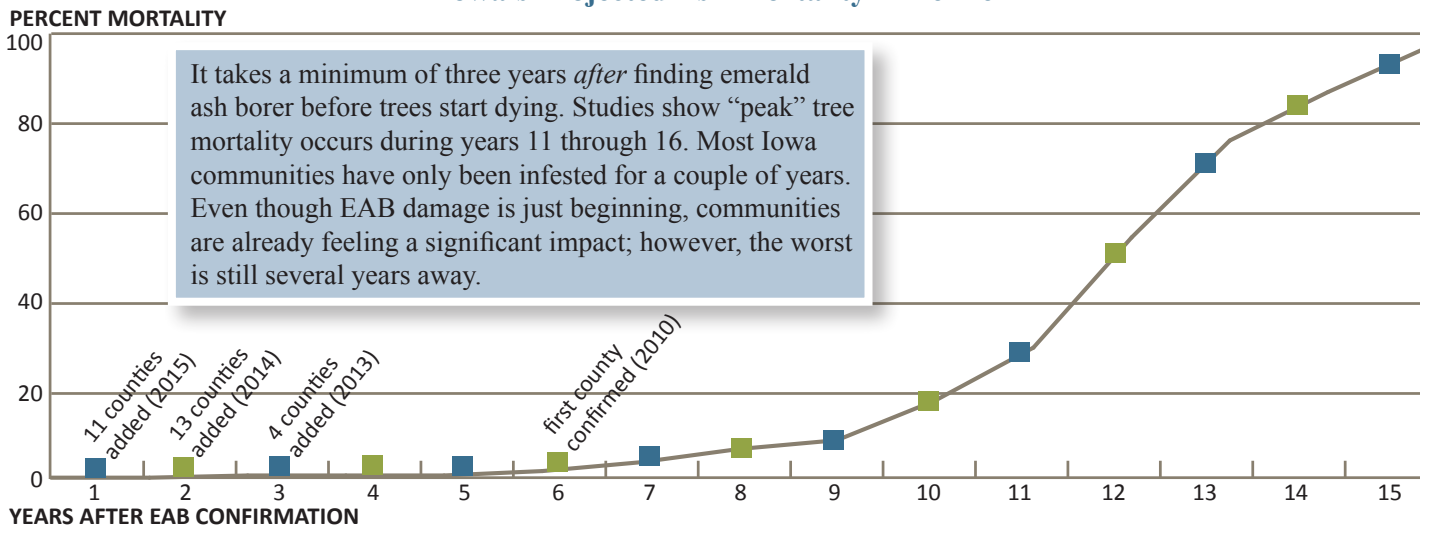
COMMUNITY | FOREST | HEALTH

Iowa's first confirmed case of emerald ash borer (EAB) was in 2010 on an island in Allamakee County in the Mississippi River. It did not make landfall until 2013 when four new counties were confirmed. In 2014, an additional 13 counties were positive for EAB and by the end of 2015 another 11 counties had confirmed EAB.

Currently, one-third of Iowa has EAB. What does this mean for Iowa communities? Are they seeing tree mortality? How has EAB affected their work load? What do our communities need to weather the EAB storm?

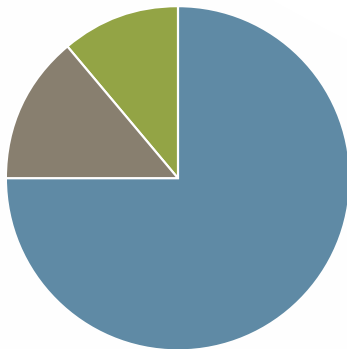
To get answers to these questions, the DNR conducted a survey of communities known to have EAB and 28 of the 32 responded.

## Iowa's Projected Ash Mortality Timeline



J Biological Invasions, 2014, 859-873, Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) mortality, regeneration, and seed bank dynamics in mixed hardwood forests following invasion by emerald ash borer (*Agilus planipennis*). Klooster, Wendy S; Herms, Daniel A; Knight, Kathleen S; Herms, Catherine P; McCullough, Deborah G; et al.

## Do you feel the private land owner is prepared to manage their trees?



- No, we are currently seeing private land trees die and the homeowners cannot afford to manage it. (13.9%)
- No, many have no idea how to best manage their trees or do not have funding. (75%)
- Other (11.1%)
- Yes, the majority are already removing or treating their trees. (0%)

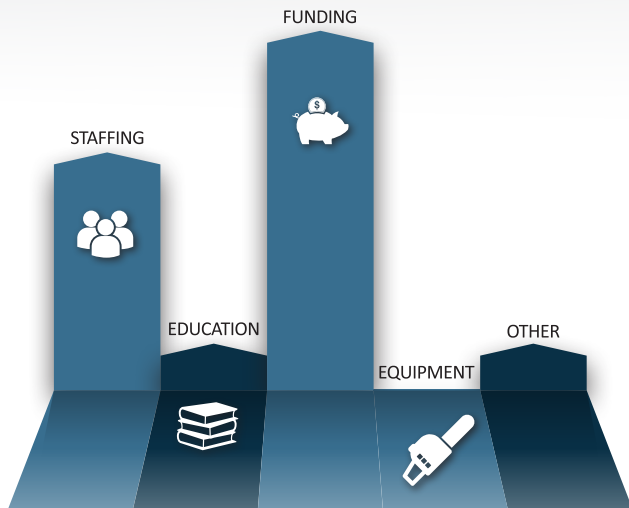
“Currently there are 331 Iowa communities with tree inventories,” says State Forester Paul Tauke. “With our current staffing level, it would take more than 20 years to complete inventories and management plans for the remaining Iowa communities.”

Iowa has an estimated 3.1 million urban ash trees. Costs to Iowa communities are estimated to be \$1.6 billion for removal and \$468 million for replanting. Having an inventory and proper management plan will help spread out the cost to communities.

“I feel I am at the cusp of a serious public safety problem as we are just getting to the point where hundreds of private ash are becoming a public nuisance annually. In our hilly town there have been several private trees where the lowest bid to remove has been \$8,000 plus.”

Casey Chadwick, City Forester of Burlington

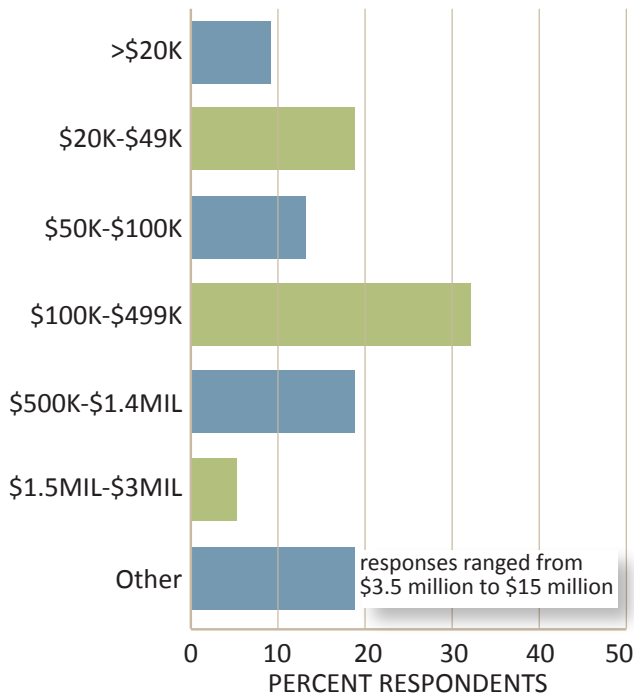
**In terms of assistance, what is the most pressing issue for you right now?**



“We will be in a world of hurt in a few short years. Just as the ash mortality rate begins its rapid climb, all three aging, full-time tree crew members will have retired or be retiring.”

Steve Pregler, City Forester of Dubuque

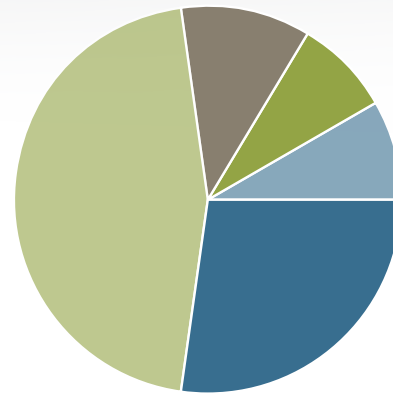
**How much money would you estimate it would take to remove and replant the emerald ash borer trees in addition to managing your current tree population?**



“It could become an overwhelming cost for a small community like ours, not just for the city but all private property owners.”

Mike Jensen, Mayor of Story City

**Since EAB was confirmed, what is the current situation in your community?**

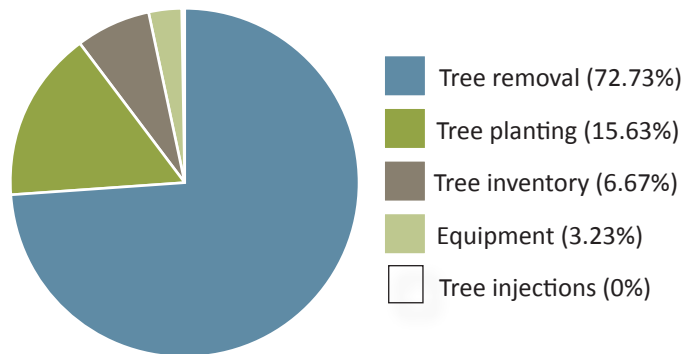


- My workload is the same (27%)
- My workload has increased (46%)
- My workload has increased substantially (10.8%)
- I can barely keep up with my workload now (8.1%)
- Other (8.1%)

“Keeping up with our traditional work is a challenge. A substantial amount of our normal job duties are being neglected in order to deal with EAB. This has resulted in a growing number of non-ash trees with issues that need to be addressed in an appropriate time frame.”

Todd Derifield, City Forester of Waterloo

**If funding were available, what would be your first priority in your community?**



“Knowing what you are dealing with is the first step in solving any problem. A tree inventory is a vital step in handling the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer in any community.”

Jonathan A. Gano, Director of Public Works, City of Des Moines

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