



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact:

Meredith Ritchie | Communications Director

[mritchie@cityofgolden.net](mailto:mritchie@cityofgolden.net) | 609-276-2523

## Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Golden, CO

**Golden, CO** — Earlier this month, experts from Colorado State University Extension confirmed the presence of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Golden. EAB was first detected in Colorado in 2013 in Boulder and has since spread to other communities. Despite Golden's proactive management efforts, no city or community has been able to fully stop the spread of this highly invasive pest. The EAB was located in north Golden, near the intersection of Hogback Dr. and Hwy 93. While this is the first confirmed EAB in Golden, it is likely present in other locations in the City, and it should be assumed that all ash trees in the City are at risk of becoming infested.

According to Golden's tree inventory, there are approximately **430** ash trees on public property, with many more located on private properties and in natural areas. Ash trees are estimated to make up about **15%** of the City's overall tree canopy. EAB attacks both stressed and healthy ash trees and typically kills them within two to four years of infestation.

The City of Golden has been preparing for EAB for several years, and staff will continue implementing management strategies to address its impact on the urban forest. You can learn more about the City's Management Plan on the [City website](#).

Residents are encouraged to take steps to assess and manage their own ash trees.

### Recommendations for Residents:

- **Identify ash trees.** Key features include compound leaves with 5–9 leaflets, opposite branching, and diamond-shaped bark on mature trees. Identification resources are available on the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) website.
- **Connect with City Forestry Team.** If you believe you have an ash tree that may be impacted by EAB, request a property visit from the City Forestry Team (email [wiannopollo@cityofgolden.net](mailto:wiannopollo@cityofgolden.net) or call 303-384-8141) for an unbiased assessment of treatment options.
- **Evaluate next steps.** Consider whether trees should be treated, removed, or replaced. For guidance, contact CSU Extension horticulture experts or a certified arborist.

- **Diversify plantings.** Replace ash trees in poor health with other species to strengthen Golden's tree canopy. The Colorado Department of Agriculture provides a list of registered nurseries and contractors.
- **Recognize symptoms.** Watch for canopy thinning, D-shaped exit holes in bark, vertical bark splitting, or winding S-shaped tunnels beneath the bark.
- **Prevent spread.** Do not transport ash firewood or untreated ash wood products outside the area. Dispose of ash wood by chipping, composting, milling into lumber, or taking it to a landfill.

The City is reviewing other community best practices and programs in developing recommendations, including cost sharing models, and will bring carefully vetted ideas to City Council to consider in the coming months.

For more information about ash tree identification, the symptoms of EAB, treatment options and how to use ash wood, visit the [CSFS website](#).

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*Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a non-native, wood-boring beetle that is responsible for the death or decline of tens of millions of ash trees in the United States and Canada. This insect was first discovered in Michigan in 2002, and since then it has spread to at least 35 states, including Colorado. As a non-native insect, EAB lacks predators in North America to keep it in check. EAB typically only attacks ash trees in the genus Fraxinus, but has also been documented infesting white fringe tree. Mountain ash and other species are not susceptible.*