

## **Your Help Needed: Statewide Ash Tree Inventory**

Does your community have ash trees? Did you know that, while there is extensive data about ash trees on state-owned land, there is little if any data available about natural or planted ash stands on town land or private property? This kind of information is key in preparing for the arrival of an invasive pest like the Emerald Ash Borer (“EAB”) – and if you’re reading this, you may be the only one in your community who has that knowledge.

If you value your ash trees, you’ve likely thought about Emerald Ash Borer and the threat it poses – these tiny, invasive wood-boring beetles can kill an ash tree in just a few years. While EAB has not yet been found in Massachusetts, it has recently been found in some of New York’s easternmost counties, less than 25 miles from our border. A 2011 survey by the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation placed more than 700 purple sticky traps across the western part of the state and in other high risk areas. EAB was not found, but we remain at risk because the New York infestation is so close, and because of the risk of people transporting untreated ash firewood into our state.

We need your help to assess the state of ash populations in Massachusetts. Information about the location of ash stands, whether naturalized or planted, is an important tool in understanding what communities are susceptible to emerald ash borer. We can use that data to provide early detection and preparedness information to communities, and also to make decisions about where to place traps for future surveys.

Please visit <http://bit.ly/ashsurveyMA> and take our brief 5-question survey. The information you provide may be what saves the ash in your community.