



# TAKING ROOT

## Community Action Toolkit

### SHEET 5 - EAB SCENARIOS GAME

## Trees in Our Community : EAB Scenarios Game

Different communities respond in different ways to the discovery of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in their ash trees. A community's decision is based on local needs and concerns, whether they be economic, safety, environmental or other local values. Whatever a community's choice, it is important that decisions are made through the convergence of citizenship and public policy. Every citizen has the power to get educated, get involved, and to help determine the future of their community's tree canopy. The following scenarios illustrate some of the decisions communities have made.

### Scenario 1 - Treatment

**Town A** has decided to treat all of its healthy ash trees in its public spaces. This town's public space is comprised of 30% ash, totalling 15,000 ash trees. Each tree must be treated once a year for the lifetime of the tree, so the town government must set aside money each year in the municipal budget for treatment. So far, the town has been treating its ash trees for two years and has only lost 3% of the trees it has treated.

### Scenario 2 - Removal

**Town B** has decided to remove all of their ash trees in their public spaces before the trees become a public safety hazard. This town's public space is comprised of 10% ash, totalling 100 ash trees. The town hopes to gradually replace the trees it has removed with new trees.

### Scenario 3 - Combination of Treatment and Removal

**Town C** has decided to treat some of its ash trees and to remove others in order to reduce future, ongoing treatment costs in the municipal budget. This town's public space is comprised of 20% ash, totaling 5,000 ash trees. An ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) certified city forester evaluated the ash inventory and chose which trees to treat based on the tree's placement in the town and how healthy the tree is.

### Scenario 4 - Do Nothing

**Town D** has decided not to do anything about its ash trees, whether healthy or infested. They assert that they do not have money in their municipal budget to address the EAB threat. They plan only to take action if they receive a complaint about a fallen tree.

The best time to plant a tree  
was 20 years ago. The second best time  
is now.

-CHINESE PROVERB

This toolkit was made possible through the support of the TREE Fund.





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### Discussion

- What are the environmental, economic, or social benefits of each decision?
- What are some of the environmental, economic, or social problems each community may face as a result of its decision?
- What will each community need to do to implement its decision, now or in the future?
- Does your community already have an EAB management plan? Which scenario is closest to your community's management plan, and for what reasons was this plan chosen? If your community does not have a plan, why not?
- What unique needs or resources does your community have that would affect how it manages its ash population?
- Which scenario is closest to what you would choose for your community, and why?

### Activity

Choose one of your favorite ash trees in your community. You can identify an ash tree by its unique leaf structure, pictured here:



Measure the diameter of the tree with a tape measure.

Using the i-tree calculator at [www.treebenefits.com](http://www.treebenefits.com), approximate the value of your ash tree. (Note: for a more scientific estimate, use the software provided by [www.itreetools.org](http://www.itreetools.org)).

What is the total estimated value of the tree for the next 10 years? For the next 20?

What is the estimated cost in your area of treating the tree compared to the estimated value you have calculated?

Page 2 of 2

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