



# Invading, Tree-Loving Pests Create A Buzz

Two non-native pests are threatening Minnesota's trees—the gypsy moth, which arrived a few years ago, and the emerald ash borer (EAB), which has traveled from the east coast into Michigan and continues eastward. The City of Golden Valley is reviewing its Shade Tree Disease and Pest Ordinance so it can respond effectively to these possible threats, but residents can also play defense by knowing how to identify the pests and what to do if they spot any.

## Gypsy Moth

Gypsy moths, from the butterfly and moth family, are considered by many experts to be the single most destructive pest of trees and shrubs. They were discovered in Golden Valley, St Louis Park, and Minneapolis in fall 2001. No more have been found since the Minnesota Department of Agriculture treated 1,850 acres in May 2002. In northeastern states, the caterpillars have defoliated and destroyed whole forests, lowered property values, and absorbed huge investments by governments for control.

Containing these invaders is not easy. Immobile but fertile female moths deposit eggs everywhere, including vehicles, camping equipment, etc. These tan egg masses spend most of the year waiting for a ride from unknowing creatures, including humans. When the eggs become larva (caterpillars) in May, they do major damage feeding day and night for about six weeks. Watch for their bright yellow heads and brown bodies lined with pairs of five blue and six red spots along the back. The adult male moth is medium-sized with brown wings and, unlike many moths, flies during the day. The female is generally white and does not move.

If you see gypsy moths in any life stage, report them immediately to 651-201-MOTH or 1-888-545-MOTH.

## EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)

EABs were discovered in Michigan in 2002 and Ohio in 2003. While native borers kill trees already weakened for various reasons, EABs from Asia kill healthy ash trees. So far, EABs have not been found in Minnesota, but ash is a common hardwood tree here, and EABs could do major damage to the forests and the economic welfare of the state.

State and federal agencies have teamed to coordinate identification and control efforts, but adult EABs are so small that their bronze or golden-green bodies and metallic, emerald wings are hard to spot, even when there's a lot of them. Because it's difficult to detect EABs in newly infested trees, the best way to spot them is to look for tell-tale signs. Woodpeckers may be the first indicator of infestation, since EAB pre-pupal larvae are a preferred snack. After about a year of infestation, look for D-shaped holes left by emerging adults and the bark splitting vertically above areas where the larvae fed. Distinct larvae tunnels will be readily visible beneath the bark of infested trees. These tunnels, excavated by feeding larvae, interrupt the transport of nutrients and water within the tree during the summer, causing the foliage to wilt and the tree canopy to become increasingly thin and sparse as branches die. Many trees appear to lose about 30% to 50% of the canopy after two years of infestation, and trees often die after three to four years of infestation.

If you suspect an EAB infestation, call the Minnesota Department of Agriculture immediately at 651-296-6684. For more information about invasive pests, visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Web site at [www.mda.state.mn.us/misac/profiles.htm](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/misac/profiles.htm).

Photos by USDA Forest Service



The gypsy moth (left) is responsible for defoliating ENTIRE FORESTS (ABOVE).



Photos by David Cappaert, Michigan State University



THE EMERALD ASH BORER (left) LEAVES TELL-TALE TUNNELS ON INFESTED TREES (ABOVE).



# CELEBRATE Public Works

National Public Works Week (NPWW) is celebrated the third week of May every year to recognize the important work done by public works employees across the United States. This year's theme is "Public Works: The Heart of Every Community," and it captures the essence of why public

works is important in day-to-day life.

Golden Valley's Public Works Department manages and maintains the infrastructure that keeps the community alive, including the

water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer system; street and sidewalk system; parks and trail system; and forestry and environmental programs. Because of this group of dedicated professionals, you have safe, clean water and can flush away waste, and you can drive, walk, or bike through an attractive, wooded community to various destinations, including parks and ball fields.

## HONOR AWARD

The City's Public Works Department also plans and engineers improvements to community infrastructure. One of Golden Valley's recent projects, the improvements to the Hwy 55 and General Mills Blvd/Boone Ave intersection, received honors in the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) 2006 Engineering Excellence

Awards. The awards were presented in January to recognize engineering achievements that demonstrate the highest degree of merit and ingenuity. Golden Valley's project resolved street grade, flooding, safety, and pedestrian issues.

For more information about Golden Valley Public Works, call 763-593-8030.