

Emerald Ash Borer confirmed in Brown County

(KNZA)--The presence of emerald ash borer has been confirmed in Brown County.

Hiawatha arborist Nick Haedt, working with the Hiawatha Tree Board, helped identify the wood-boring pest in a tree at the Hiawatha City Lake, and recently shared information on social media about the severity of the situation.

Haedt said emerald ash borer is a devastating pest that will destroy the ash trees in the area. He said if you have an ash tree it is recommended that you either treat the tree or have the tree removed.

Haedt said the Tree Board is planning to try to flag ash trees in Hiawatha and hope to communicate with homeowners about the pest and their options moving forward.

Symptoms of ash trees that might have EAB:

- **Thinning leaves in tree crown (by about 50%)**
- **Branch die back**
- **Bark splitting along branches**
- **New sprouts on the trunk or random locations**
- **Increased woodpecker activity**

The Emerald ash borer, a non-native insect from Asia, was first discovered in United States in 2002 near Detroit, Michigan. Since that time, the pest has killed millions of ash trees across the country. It was first identified in Kansas in 2012.

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