

FOREST LANDOWNER'S GUIDE HEALTH



When Invasive Species Threaten Your Woodlot

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What are invasive alien species?

Invasive alien species are plants, animals, aquatic life and micro-organisms whose introduction, spread or population increase threatens the environment, the economy, or society, including human health. Emerald ash borer is an example of an invasive alien species.

Invasive species may kill or displace native species, reduce their health or vigour, or make them susceptible to attack by other organisms.

Invasive alien species can originate from other continents, neighbouring countries, or from other ecosystems within Canada.

What do I do if I suspect an invasive species in my woodlot?

Always get confirmation of the identity of what you found by contacting the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) at **1-800-442-2342** or at www.inspection.gc.ca, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) at **1-800-667-1940** or at <http://www.ontario.ca/forests>, or the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) at <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca>.

In most cases, early detection is important for successful control. Do not move potentially infested material or live organisms until you receive confirmation that the species involved is not an invasive pest.

Before deciding to harvest any timber, obtain advice on how to manage your woodlot. Contact your local MNR office or a professional forestry consultant on best management options.

Maintain a healthy woodlot to reduce its susceptibility to attack by native or invasive species.



Figure 1. Invasive species are often spread by people moving firewood.

I am in an area very close to the known range of emerald ash borer, what should I do?

There is **no** urgent need to cut all healthy ash trees in your woodlot as the emerald ash borer only causes damage to the wood a few centimetres under the bark. Thus, the tree still retains its value for timber for a period of time after attack by emerald ash borer. Landowners may consider a staged removal of ash trees to provide more growing space for other tree species.

If you are interested in harvesting ash in your woodlot to promote growth of other species, it should be done as part of a proper

forest management plan prescription. Please consult a professional forest practitioner.

Your woodlot is still valuable and will continue to be productive in the future provided good forest management practices occur.

Examine your woodlot frequently to detect any signs or symptoms of possible invasive species. Report any suspicious signs or symptoms to the CFIA, CFS, or MNR.

Refer to: *A Landowner's Guide for Woodlots Threatened by Emerald Ash Borer*
http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_166920.html.



Figure 2. A professional tree marker can determine which trees should be removed to maintain a healthy forest.

I am well outside of the range of a known invasive species, how should I manage my woodlot?

Maintain a healthy forest. Healthy forests are more resilient to insect and disease attack; landowners can reduce their woodlot susceptibility through management.

Follow *Good Forestry Practices*; see: <http://www.ont-woodlot-assoc.org/silvic/sec2.PDF>.

Manage your woodlot for several different species of trees to provide diversity.

Thinning can reduce stress and promote good form, vigour and growth.

Keep livestock from grazing in your woodlot.

Get advice from local forestry consultants. Creating a forest management plan for your

woodlot can help ensure you maintain a healthy woodlot that meets your needs.

Contact your local MNR office for information on tax incentives and tree planting programs.

Refer to: *Do You Have a Healthy Woodlot?* – MNR extension note at: http://www.lrconline.com/Extension_Notes_English/pdf/hlthywdlt.pdf.

What should I do if I am approached by a logger wanting to harvest my woodlot because of a threatening pest?

First, confirm with the CFIA, CFS, or the MNR that the threatening pest is actually in your woodlot. For example: if you do not have ash trees in your woodlot, you do not have emerald ash borer.

Landowners should not sell their merchantable trees for timber just because they feel pressured to do so.

Before harvesting any trees, create a forest management plan for your woodlot in consultation with a professional forestry consultant. The decision to cut the trees should be based on your objectives for your woodlot.

If you are going to harvest timber, ensure you are dealing with a reputable logger and are receiving a fair price.

Refer to: *A Landowner's Guide to Selling Standing Timber* - http://www.ont-woodlot-assoc.org/info_pub_guide.html.

Additional Resources

Canadian Food Inspection Agency,
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/pestrava/pestravae.shtml>

Canadian Forest Service,
<http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/index/invasive>
<http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/news/590>

Ministry of Natural Resources,
<http://www.ontario.ca/forests>

Ontario Woodlot Association,
<http://www.ont-woodlot-assoc.org>