

Hitchhikers threaten to destroy Addison's trees!

Be careful who you bring home.

Residents beware. There are several devastating insects that would like to make the trees of Addison their new home. Many of these insects would hitchhike a ride into town by way of firewood logs, nursery stock, camping gear and even your vehicle, if given the chance. Don't give these bugs a free ride!

Hitchhiker #1: The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Be careful - this devastating insect would like to hitchhike a ride home with you in any lumber, nursery stock, and firewood that you bring back from infested areas.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a non-native beetle that was recently discovered infesting and killing thousands of ash trees in southeastern Michigan in June 2002. In addition to Michigan, the EAB was also found in Ontario in 2002, and in Maryland and Ohio in 2003. It is estimated that the Emerald Ash Borer may be responsible for the death of as many as 16 million ash trees to date.

Michigan and Ohio have imposed state quarantines on movement of ash trees and ash wood products to limit human-assisted spread of this pest. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have imposed Federal quarantines. The quarantines restrict movement of ash logs, lumber, firewood, and nursery stock.

Bringing home ash firewood from one of these quarantined locations to store for use later, could introduce the beetle to the Village of Addison if the wood is infested. Planting an ash tree on your property that came from a nursery in one of these quarantined locations could introduce the EAB to Addison as well.

Hitchhiker #2: The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

There is a small section of Addison between Fullerton Ave and Army Trail Rd, Swift Rd and Lombard Rd, that has recently been released from quarantine for the control of the Asian Longhorned Beetle, as imposed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Fortunately for the Village of Addison and the surrounding communities, the ALB, or evidence of ALB infestation, has not been found within the previously established quarantine zones in and around Addison for a period of greater than three years. Although the quarantine is no longer in effect, the Department of Agriculture will continue to routinely inspect the previously quarantined area to ensure the eradication of this highly destructive insect pest.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle would hitchhike a ride out from existing quarantined or infested locations (within or outside of Illinois) and into Addison by way infested firewood, transported inadvertently by a homeowner.

Hitchhiker #3 Elm Bark Beetle (Dutch Elm Disease)

The Elm Bark Beetle and the Gypsy Moth have been in the region for quite some time now, yet we still try to control the spread of infestation to save our beautiful trees.

The Village of Addison has in place an ordinance to control the spread of Dutch Elm Disease throughout Addison. The disease effects only elms and is spread by the feeding of the Elm Bark Beetle, as well as the root grafting between infected and uninfected elm roots.

The Elm Bark Beetle will hitchhike in logs kept for firewood from an infested tree. Adult beetles will emerge from any logs with tight bark still attached, and look for new elm trees to feed on (and infect).

Hitchhiker #4: The Gypsy Moth

The Gypsy Moth is the biggest hitchhiker of all. Over the years, it was introduced to the U.S. from Asia and spread its way from the Northeastern United States all the way to our region. As a caterpillar, the Gypsy Moth feeds on the foliage of hundreds of species of plants and is known to be the number one defoliating insect pest in the United States.

The gypsy moth is usually spread to new areas by hitchhiking on outdoor articles such as camping equipment, vehicles, and portable structures. Although all life stages of the insect can hitchhike, it is usually the tan-colored, fuzzy egg mass (roughly one-square-inch in size) that is transported. Gypsy Moths may lay eggs on your camper, vehicle or other outdoor equipment after camping in, or moving from, infested areas.

So if you have planted any new trees on your property, purchased or collected any ash or elm firewood, or have been visiting, camping or moved from an area that harbors the above insects – ask yourself...

Have you picked up any hitchhikers lately?

