

# PEER-TO-PEER: BETTER TURF THROUGH NETWORKING

## Superintendents were asked: Now that Emerald Ash has been located in Minnesota, what is your golf courses' plan of attack?

At Keller GC our tree inventory reveals 27% of our trees to be either Green ash or Marshall's Seedless ash. These ash are not necessarily intermixed throughout the golf course but tend to be concentrated in groups in strategic locations or line the margins of certain golf holes. My plan is to selectively remove ash from these concentrated areas and replace with native species as funds become available. This year we hope to replace 16 ash trees with Hackberry and Sugar maples. Not much but it is a start. I said "hope to replace" because we all know what a battle it can be to remove healthy trees! - Paul Diegnau, CGCS, Keller Golf Course

Windom CC has started a re-planting program as of this year. We have just completed planting 30 trees. Our course is about 87% Ash trees. - Bruce Boerst, Windom Country Club

Two years ago at New Richmond, we started planting replacement trees located near what we felt were key ash trees. We will continue to do so but are looking at treating some of the most important ones provided it can be done at a reasonable cost. We have about 200 ash trees on the course, 50 of which we consider important enough to replace or treat. We will probably treat a fraction of those 50. - Tom Johnson,

New Richmond Golf Club

Waseca-Lakeside Club started a program a few years ago to remove ash trees. We have over 550 ash trees on our course. My board is very proactive and has given me the green light to take down any ash trees that are out of play. I figured it's about 250-300 trees. The trees that are in the critical areas we will try to treat until we can get other trees (maples) grown to replace them. We have many members that burn wood for heating so that shouldn't be an issue. - Seth Langager, Waseca Lakeside Club

At Stillwater CC 60% of our trees are ash. Four years ago, after the Emerald Ash Borer talk started, we began taking out 70 ash trees every winter. Most of the removal was areas that were overplanted or near greens and tees. We also started a tree nursery and have planted 45 trees from the nursery onto the course. Being pro-active has brought down our number of Ash trees, but we still need a few years for the new planting to affect play. - Marlin Murphy, Stillwater Country Club

What do you do in the winter? We count trees. In my youth (the early 90s) Somerset CC had close to 500 green ash trees. When Jason Bass, from Strata Point, inventoried them

in 1999 Somerset had 357 interior green ash which was 17.2 percent of our trees.

A couple of years ago with the EAB in the news Somerset's Green Committee took a progressive approach to our trees. If the green ash were over crowded and had more dead wood than alive we were given the green light to take them down. Interestingly enough most of our green ash are about the same age, 70 plus years. Now we are down to 250 interior green ash trees or 13 percent of the population.

We have a few green ash that are in nice shape which we will look in to treating if the disease is found in the neighborhood. I will treat the white ash for sure. In the mean time we will continue to take down green ash past their prime. I am fortunate, if a tree has been planted too close to a green or fairway we have been able to remove them. Golf, grass and water conservation have the priority.

Now when we plant, the species and placement is considered by our golf course architect. - James Bade, Somerset Country Club

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## Peer-to-Peer-

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**The Minikahda Club** will be taking a complete inventory of our ash trees and will evaluate what ones will be worth trying to save. We will also develop an estimate for the cost of the removals as well as the cost for treatments. We will also assess which areas we will need to replant and develop a cost analysis for the replacement of these trees. We will prepare for the worst case scenario. - *Jeff Johnson, The Minikahda Club*

At **Southview CC** we began replanting other species in heavily populated ash tree areas a couple of years ago. I plan on continuing with this and removing ash trees as necessary. - *Jeramie Gossman, Southview Country Club*

It's here! At **Minnesota Valley**, we've been proactive in discussing the Emerald Ash Borer at Green Committee meetings over the past year and a half. A decision was made last fall to treat approximately 150 of our 230 ash trees with imidacloprid this spring using the soil drench method. After the most recent discovery of the EAB in the metro, I've made the decision to treat all 230 ash on our course. We are using a flowable imidacloprid product at a rate of .2 ounces per inch of trunk diameter, and 4 gallons of

water for every 1,000 sq. ft. sprayed. We sprayed an area around the base of the tree approximately 4 feet out, with a concentration of the product within 2 feet of the trunk using a spray gun. May is the proper month to apply the product using this method, it's needed annually, and it's fairly economical. - *Mike Brower, Minnesota Valley CC*

**Monticello CC** has had a fairly aggressive tree planting program in the past; however, that has tapered off over the years as the younger trees have started to mature and fill in the thin areas. We stopped buying ash trees 4-5 years ago due to the threat of EAB. I believe we also learned our lessons with Dutch Elm disease and therefore purchased a variety of trees in the past, mixing them up in stands as we planted them. That having been said, we still have plenty of ash trees and one particular tree stands 15 feet taller than the whole grove of oak and hackberry. It makes a great target on our 9th hole. As far as the future, we will handle it like the Elm trees, cut them down as we have to and continue to plant other species where a larger population of ash trees exist in case they do get EAB. - *Rick Traver, CGCS, Monticello CC*

My Green Committee and Board of

Directors at **North Oaks** have been aware of the EAB for a couple of years now. However, we don't have a proactive replacement plan going quite yet as the borers are slow to get about, a max of .5 miles each year. We have been told that the EAB is a devastating insect, but my research indicates that it preys upon weaker trees (although does kill healthy ones as well) and the really, really wiped out areas are those that were quarantined and strip cut. I understand the theory behind this procedure, but don't all tree varieties have issues? Oak wilt, Sudden Maple Decline, DED? What about the simple girdling root? Did those cities that strip cut have to go through that painful and expensive process? With today's economy I might suggest taking a wait and see approach and have some Merit or the chain saw ready to go as well as a tree spade! - *Jack MacKenzie, North Oaks GC*

At **Meadowbrook**, the plan is to read them their final rights. Cut them down. and have a bonfire! - *Scott Austin, CGCS, Meadowbrook GC*

**Tanners Brook GC** is a links-style course with very few trees. If we lose a few ash trees, so be it. - *Kevin Clunis CGCS, Tanners Brook GC*



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