



Arbor Ridge Home Owners Association  
PO Box 201  
Crestwood, KY 40014  
HOA@ArborRidge-Crestwood.com

## Ash Trees



Some of the defining characteristics of the Arbor Ridge Subdivision are the Ash trees that were planted in the front easement of each lot. A few of these trees were destroyed as a result of storms in 2006. The Board felt it important to replace these trees, as well as to plant trees where builders overlooked them. The newly planted tree's appear to be doing well thanks to the TLC provided by the home owners.

Homeowners with existing Ash trees are asked to remove any stakes that may still exist, to prevent damage to the tree. Some of you may be aware that a severely damaging exotic beetle, the emerald ash borer, was discovered in Michigan in 2002 and is spreading south into Indiana and Ohio. The larvae feed on the inner bark of the tree, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. Strong efforts are in place by authorities in the affected states to prevent further spreading. ***The emerald ash borer is spreading throughout our area and will destroy the ash trees planted in the neighborhood if left untreated. This is the time of year to treat the ash trees--all the trees planted along the easements in front of our homes are ash. The treatment that has been recommended to us by experts is 1.47% imidaclopride -- Bayer makes a solution that is found in all hardware stores. Residents should carefully follow directions to apply a once per year treatment in the spring.***

Disease, adverse weather conditions, and poor cultural care affect the overall health of ash trees. Repeated events wear down tree defenses causing slow or abnormal growth, branch dieback, and tree death. Three common diseases causing branch dieback and tree death include ash yellows, verticillium wilt, and cankers.

Ash yellows typically causes the formation of what looks like witch's brooms on the main trunk. These brooms lack a central stem and appear as a yellow-green proliferation of growth. Witch's brooms are often confused with salt spray damage or natural sprouting on healthy trees. To identify salt damage, simply determine whether the tree was exposed to salt spray.

Verticillium wilt typically causes wilting and tree death. Branches in the upper crown or along one side of the tree often wilt first, as leaves on infected branches turn brown from the leaf's edge inward. Verticillium is often confused with winter injury, stem girdling roots, and drought stress. These factors also cause drought-like symptoms. Identifying verticillium is difficult and usually requires a professional diagnosis.

Canker diseases typically cause swollen, sunken, or target-shaped wounds to develop randomly on the branches or the main trunk. These wounds often girdle that portion of the tree causing it to die. Canker diseases are easily confused with mechanical injuries.

Unfortunately, there are no effective treatments available for control of these diseases. As a result, the only beneficial control strategy is to improve tree health. Trees should be watered during dry periods, mulched, properly fertilized, and protected against soil compaction. Severely affected trees may not recover.

For more information, call your local Extension office or visit the Yard and Garden web site at [www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu). (Taken from The University of Minnesota Extension website at [www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu))