TREE DOCTOR Rx
Services, LLC

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RE: Re-treatment Against EAB Infestation:

Years since last treatment: _____

Dear Valued Client,

You are receiving this letter to inform you that your Ash tree(s) may need to be treated again to prevent Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation. As you will see in the graph below, there are variations in the frequency that re-treatments should be performed based on the stage of infestation. Ash trees can withstand being infested with dozens or even hundreds, in the case of large trees, of EAB larva. That can be seen in the graph with only 10% of Ash trees perishing in the first 6 years. During this period, all that is necessary to control EAB is to make your tree(s) less desirable than the other Ash trees. Hence, the treatment cycle being extended to 3 years despite the treatment only being toxic to EAB through 2 years. Enough residual remains to deter the beetles through the third year.

Once year 6 arrives, the EAB population has grown enough so that each generation gets exponentially larger and Ash trees are killed very quickly. 80% of the untreated Ash trees will be killed between year 6 and year 12 of the infestation. During this period, it is crucial to treat every 2 years because with an increasing number of EAB, and a diminishing number of Ash trees, the desperate insects will exploit any weakness in the treatment. A large majority of TDS clients have trees in areas in the latter half of this period.

Finally, between years 12 and 15, the population of untreated Ash trees is so diminished that EAB no longer has adequate habitat to survive and the insects' population crashes. At this juncture, there is only slight risk to the Ash trees that have been treated through the preceding years. Some trees, like those in areas geographically isolated from timber stands or other likely sources of EAB (foreign lumber or firewood), may never need to be treated again. While others close to areas with maturing Ash seedlings in timbered areas may still need to treat every several years. It is essentially on a as needed basis. For those clients, who are not confident in recognizing the early symptoms of EAB, I am recommending treating every 5 years. EAB will persist in low numbers until Ash seedlings, too small to infest, become large enough to provide adequate habitat. We will see small surges of EAB, in certain locations, approximately every ten years because of this. But it will never be anywhere near the pressure on your Ash trees as the initial 12-15 years when EAB had every Ash tree grown in the past century or more for

habitat. Some of you are fortunate enough to have reached the point where EAB populations have already crashed and are already on a 5-year treatment cycle. But, for most of you, I will continue to assess each time I treat your tree(s) and will let you know when I think it is safe to start extending the period between treatments. This will become increasingly common over the next few years, thus the reason for a re-treatment notice letter more detailed than the ones I have sent in the past.

These variations in times between treatments is to create the most cost-effective way for Tree Doctor Services clients to retain healthy Ash trees. However, not factoring cost, the absolute most effective way is to continue treating every two years. In fact, I will refund the cost of treatment for any Ash tree killed by EAB within 2 years of treatment. I recommend this for clients that have zero tolerance of risk for Ash trees they value highly for sentimental or other reasons. There is one other cost saving measure that can be employed for clients with multiple Ash trees particularly if within near proximity to each other. Not all the trees will need to be treated at once so long as about half of them have been treated within the last 2 years. This is because adult EAB beetles taste the leaves of multiple Ash trees to assess which would be best to lay their eggs on. They almost inevitably feed on a treated tree and perish before they have a chance to lay eggs. A few will get lucky and lay their eggs on the untreated tree(s) but usually not enough to cause severe damage to the tree(s). Those lucky EAB will be wiped out in the subsequent treatment of the other half of the trees. This ostensibly achieves close to the effectiveness of treating every 2 years at the cost of treating them all every 4 years. I do not typically recommend this for the initial treatment unless within that first 6 years of the infestation cycle.

Years since initial infestation (years 1-15):

(Percentage of untreated Ash trees killed by EAB):

Recommended Treatment Frequency:

1	6	12	15 and beyond
(<1%)	(10%)	(90%)	(99+%)
Every 3 years	Every 2 years		Every 3-5 years or as needed

Spruce Needle Cast:

Tree Doctor Services is now offering treatments for Spruce Needle Cast (SNC). SNC is a family of fungi species that attacks the needles of spruce trees and infrequently firs as well. It attacks all the needles but takes a year or two to kill them. This results in the older needles turning brown or purple and falling off the tree leaving only the most recent years growth and a canopy that appears thin and hollowed out in the middle. In later stages, entire limbs die usually starting from the bottom of the canopy although not always. SNC has become an increasingly larger problem throughout the country over the past two decades. The treatment is an anti-fungal spray that coats the entire tree. It typically takes 6-9 applications over at least several years before trees show significant signs of recovery. The cost of the application is based on the height of the tree, or more accurately, the length of the canopy. The cost is $4/foot for each application. As an example, a Christmas tree sized (6') spruce would cost $24+tax per

application. Spruces with canopies that exceed 30’ in width are $5 per foot of height/canopy length. These applications can only be done in the Spring after the new growth emerges (candles) and the late Summer/Early fall so I will only be able to do a limited number of trees. So please contact TDS promptly if you have a spruce or possibly a fir in need of attention. I am aware that this is short notice and I do apologize.

Scheduling Treatments:

Unfortunately, there have been clients, in the past 2 years, that have missed treatments because of differences in scheduling procedures between TDS and the former Kittelson Consulting. Unlike Kittelson Consulting, TDS only schedules treatments after a confirmation from the tree owner/manager. If you have an Ash, Spruce, or any other species of tree that may require care in 2024, please contact us by phone, email, or text to be scheduled. I anxiously await the opportunity to correspond with you.

Thank you,

Aaron P. Trezona, Proprietor

Tree Doctor Services, LLC

ISA Board Certified Master Arborist PD-0815BU