



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hailey Tree Committee Offers Healthy Urban Forest Tips

Use Diverse Species in Tree Planting

(Hailey, Idaho) – Diversity of species is one of the most important elements to think about when planting trees. A diverse urban forest is the key to a healthy urban forest. The Hailey Tree Committee has created a Wood River Valley Tree Guide to help you select a diverse mix of trees for your property. Urban trees are less resistant to disease, and too many of the same type of species can result in a large population of the urban forest being wiped out by disease or blight. The focus of the WRV Tree Guide is to give information about the types of trees that will flourish beautifully and have a long and healthy life. Aspen, spruce and ash are NOT species that have a good chance of survival, as they are unable to withstand the spread of disease.

Ash is particularly susceptible to disease, with The **Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis* or EAB)** responsible for the destruction of tens of millions of ash trees in 30 states. There is an outbreak of EAB in Colorado and it is only a matter of time before it reaches Idaho and the Wood River Valley. One of the challenges in managing EAB is that infested trees typically do not display visual stress signs until they have been infested for 1-3 years. Ash trees lose most of their canopy within 2 years of infestation and die within 3-4 years. The beetle is very hearty and can survive temperatures between -22 degrees and 127 degrees Fahrenheit.

All 16 species of ash trees and White Fringetree are at risk from firewood, ash wood products, infested ash plantings and trees, ash wood packing material, ash wood debris and trimmings, including chips. These materials can spread the infestation even if no beetles are visible. Mature beetles can fly tree to tree but it is human activities that have greatly speeded up its spread.

Areas with infestations have a quarantine that prohibits the movement of all untreated plants and plant parts of the genus *Fraxinus* (all ash trees) out of the quarantined area and includes, but is not limited to:

- Logs and green lumber
- Stumps, roots and branches
- Chips and mulch, either composted or uncomposted
- Ash nursery stock
- Firewood of any non-coniferous (hardwood) species

The WRV Tree Guide is available on the City of Hailey website.

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