

# Community Tree Inventory Pest Detection

USDA Forest Service  
Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry  
*Enhancing Exotic Pest Detection*



**Description** Community tree inventories are a valuable starting point for street tree management. This initiative is assisting communities and municipal foresters with detecting insect and disease infestations as part of these inventories. Benefits include: 1) increasing awareness of street tree conditions and potential problems, 2) improving opportunities to treat problems while they are still manageable, and 3) increasing the chances of detecting exotic pest problems before they spread.

## Key Issues

- **Greater pest awareness:** As with forest management, better awareness of urban and street tree pest problems improve care and management programs. Municipal foresters need to be aware of signs and symptoms that indicate potential tree health issues.
- **Opportunities for remedial or preventative actions:** Detecting signs and symptoms of tree pest problems during inventory allows the municipal forester to develop remedial or preventative actions to improve urban forest health and save trees.
- **Exotic pest detection:** Most exotic pests are first introduced to urban areas (Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, and gypsy moth, for example). Including detection in street tree inventories expands detection capability while potentially stopping infestations earlier and closer to their source.

## Accomplishments

- The USDA Forest Service and the Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center (EFETAC), whose mission includes providing science and technology for early detection and assessment of environmental threats, are providing the project's first-year (FY 2007) funding.
- A grant was awarded to the Davey Tree Expert Company to provide project coordination and software development.
- The project planning and development team has been established, which includes the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry, Urban and Community Forestry and Forest Health Protection Programs; US Forest Service Northern Research Station, Urban Forest Research Unit; Society of Municipal Arborists; city of Ithaca, NY; USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; Davey Tree Expert Company; Ohio Department of Natural Resources; and the Ohio State University.

## Budget History

Community Tree Pest Detection (\$ Thousands)	
	FY 2007
EFETAC	\$30
US Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry	\$25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55</b>

## Future Direction

Phase 1 is expected to be completed by September 2007, including a multi-community pilot test. The geographic scope of the project will then be expanded nationwide.

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