

VILLAGE FORESTRY EFFORTS UNDERWAY AS SPRING DRAWS NEAR

The Village of New Glarus Arbor Day tree planting event is scheduled for May 2. This annual event brings together adult and teen volunteers to plant trees in the public terraces and parks throughout the community. This year marks the twenty-third year of our community tree planting event, and an average of 47 new trees have been planted each year.

Homeowners interested in having a terrace tree planted as part of this program must sign up and pay the cost for their chosen trees by March 31. Order forms can be requested by calling [527-5833](tel:527-5833) and providing your mailing address. The price of the trees varies from \$16 to \$90.

Tree planting is not the only part of the village's forestry program. In the past weeks, a contractor hired by the village removed a number of diseased and structurally hazardous trees. Additionally, in the next weeks the village public works department will be removing sixteen of our downtown trees.

Some of the trees removed were infected with Emerald Ash Borer, which eventually results in a tree's death. The village has made efforts to save ash trees in our parks with an injected treatment. Homeowners with ash trees in their terraces were also invited to participate in the treatment program, and a number of residents have accepted the responsibility of trying to keep their terrace ash trees in good health.

The downtown ornamental pear trees—and several others throughout the village—are infected with a disease called fire blight. Fire blight is very difficult to control and will eventually lead to a tree's death. The downtown pear trees will be replaced with Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilacs during the Arbor Day planting.

The remainder of the trees removed were younger trees with storm damage and large mature trees with significant decay and hollow areas that posed a hazard to people and property. All property owners were notified in advance, and no healthy trees were removed.

With the arrival of Emerald Ash Borer in New Glarus, a number of tree removals will likely be needed over the next years. A significant percentage of the trees in our community are ash trees, and untreated trees will eventually succumb to the insect's damage.

Any village resident with questions about planting trees, Emerald Ash Borer, fire blight or hazardous tree identification should call Village Forester Paul Jennrich at [527-5833](tel:527-5833).