

Items for MnSTAC

July 20, 2023

- EAB continues to be challenging with the amount of removals.
 - One of the complications relates to the Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB) and agreements with USFWS for restrictions on removals during summer months. Removals can be accomplished with reason even in areas with known NLEB hibernacula/pup trees.
- Positively identifying oak wilt in the field is difficult due to the number of “look-alike” oak insect and disease issues. If a community ordinance dictates that a tree must be removed within a time limited manner, then the request must be accompanied by a positive oak wilt test result from a diagnostic laboratory. This recommendation is also made by Brian Schwingle with the Minnesota DNR.
- Please continue to submit removal requests through the Community Tree Survey



Reporting Tree Removal Needs along Highways in your Community

Do you have a State, US, or Interstate Highway going through your community? The MN Department of Transportation manages these roadsides. Emerald ash borer, Dutch elm disease, and oak wilt kill many trees that require removal to manage impact and spread. In an attempt to streamline resources, MnDOT is asking community foresters to submit needed tree removals through a Survey123 application.

Community/City Foresters, Natural Resource Staff: Please scan the QR code to fill out the form

Community members: Please work with your community/city forester or natural resource staff to submit trees for removal.

High Risk Trees: Please submit by email details directly rather than using the form. roadsidevegetationpermits.dot@state.mn.us



- MnDOT’s Roadside Vegetation Management Unit is completing a 4th year of roadside surveys for compliance with the Monarch CCAA (Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances). This survey consists of 77 randomly selected sites in MnDOT R/W mostly on the Interstate Highway System.

The site survey consists of milkweed counts and assessment of other pollinator habitat parameters.

[Monarch CCAA - Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group \(uic.edu\)](#)

- A couple of items to watch moving forward:
 - NextGen Highways – “*Planning needs to reimagine highways, railways and other existing rights-of-way as infrastructure corridors where electric and communications infrastructure are strategically and safely co-located in the right-of-way (ROW).*” [nextgenhighways.org](https://www.nextgenhighways.org)
 - Certified Weed Free Gravel. . . [Weed Free Products - NAISMA](#).

- MnDOT's noxious weed book underwent a face lift and update to reflect the 2023 alterations to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed List. [See QR code below.](#)



Minnesota Noxious Weeds
Includes native and non-native species for comparison

m DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Updated January 30, 2023

Scan QR Code to download
the Minnesota Noxious
Weed booklet

<http://stny.cc/NoxWeedbooklowPoster>

