

## STATE of MINNESOTA

## Proclamation

WHEREAS: More than 998 million ash trees exist in the forests of the State of Minnesota, enhancing

air and water quality, natural landscapes, recreational destinations, wildlife habitats,

property values, and local economies; and

WHEREAS: An average of 20 percent of urban street trees in Minnesota are ash trees, helping

residents reduce heating and cooling costs, reducing air pollution and storm water

runoff, and beautifying our towns and cities; and

WHEREAS: Increasing public awareness and understanding of the emerald ash borer (EAB), a

destructive, exotic beetle, benefits the State of Minnesota by curtailing the artificial

spread of the beetle through the movement of firewood; and

WHEREAS: Efforts undertaken in Minnesota and elsewhere, in partnership with private and

nonprofit organizations, universities, and government agencies, are helping protect the

billions of ash trees in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Employing a cooperative spirit and encouraging environmental stewardship ultimately

reduces the risk to the nation's ash resources; and

WHEREAS: It is the desired goal of the State of Minnesota that citizens and visitors increase their

understanding and awareness of EAB and its environmental, ecological, and economic

impact on Minnesota, the Great Lakes region, and the nation; and

WHEREAS: Spring marks the beginning of the travel and tourism season in Minnesota; and

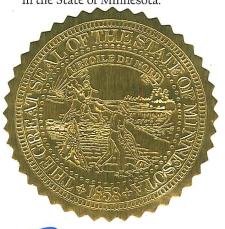
WHEREAS: Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week is an opportunity for the government to join forces

with schools, businesses, industry, environmental groups, community organizations, tourists, and citizens and take action against the spread and introduction of EAB.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of May 20-26, 2012 as:

## EMERALD ASH BORER AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE