

## PRACTICING ARBORICULTURE IN MANITOBA

### CHANGES TO ARBORIST REGULATIONS

Changes to the Arborists Regulation came into force on April 1st, 2018, eliminating the need for arborists to maintain a Government of Manitoba issued arborists licence.

#### Now, to practice arboriculture in Manitoba you must:

- Hold and maintain certification from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA),
- Or, have in your possession a previously issued Manitoba Arborists Licence that was valid after October 1, 2017,
- Or, have proof of successfully completing the Manitoba Arborists Training Course from the University of Manitoba before July 1, 2019.

#### As before, the following exceptions apply:

- A person does not need certification if the only arboriculture services they provide are planting and watering trees/woody plants or applying pesticides to trees/woody plants.
- Assistants who are not certified may provide tree care if a qualified arborist is present at the worksite and directly supervises the assistant's work.

### ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE (ISA)



To ensure that those practicing arboriculture in Manitoba are adequately trained and qualified to prune and care for trees, arborists are required to have and maintain ISA certification (there are exceptions – see above). The ISA is a professional association that promotes the practice and study of tree care. It offers a credentialing program that demonstrates a level of education, training, and expertise obtained by those who have and maintain credentials from the ISA.

## ISA CREDENTIALS AND CERTIFICATION

To obtain ISA certification, a person must have a minimum of three years experience in tree care or horticulture and/or college or university education in horticulture, forestry, landscape architecture or urban forestry. After obtaining these qualifications, they must pass an exam that covers the different aspects of tree care.



Photo credit: Joseph Obrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

For more information on ISA credentials go to <https://www.isa-arbor.com/Credentials/The-Power-of-Credentials>.

Applying for Eligibility: <https://www.isa-arbor.com/Credentials/Apply-Now/Apply-for-Eligibility>

## COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT ARBORISTS REGULATIONS

**Q: I passed the University of Manitoba Arborists Training course before July 1, 2019, but I did not have a Manitoba arborist's licence. Can I legally practice arboriculture in Manitoba?**

A: Yes. When you are working you must be able to produce confirmation you have completed and passed the course.

**Q: I passed the Manitoba Arborists Training Course, but I no longer have a copy of the confirmation I received from the University of Manitoba. Can I still practice arboriculture in Manitoba?**

A: Yes. However, you will need to obtain proof of completion from Agriculture and Resource Development, Forestry Branch (204-945-7866 or [treeline@gov.mb.ca](mailto:treeline@gov.mb.ca)) to keep with you when you are working. A previously issued arborists licence can also be used to show that you are able to practice arboriculture in Manitoba.

**Q: My Manitoba arborist's licence has expired. Will the province be issuing me something new?**

A: No. When your licence expires, you can keep it to produce it when you are working in Manitoba.

**Q: I held a Manitoba Arborists Licence that was valid after October 1, 2017, but I no longer have a copy of the licence. Can I still practice arboriculture in Manitoba?**

A: Yes. However, you will need proof that you had a licence to have in your possession while working. Contact Agriculture and Resource Development, Forestry Branch (204-945-7866 or [treeline@gov.mb.ca](mailto:treeline@gov.mb.ca)) to obtain this.

**Q: I previously held a Manitoba arborists licence and/or I previously passed the Manitoba Arborists Training course. Does this mean that I am now automatically an ISA certified arborist?**

A: No. If you decide you would like to obtain your ISA certification, you will need to contact the ISA for more information ([www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com)).

**Q: I did not take the Manitoba Arborists Training course, but I did have a Manitoba arborist's licence. Can I still practice arboriculture in Manitoba?**

A: If you had a valid licence after Oct 1, 2017, then you can still practice arboriculture in Manitoba. You will need to keep it to produce when you are working in Manitoba. If you had allowed your licence to lapse before Oct 1, 2017, you will need to obtain certification through the ISA.

**Q: I did not previously hold a Manitoba arborists licence, but I do have my ISA certification. Can I practice arboriculture in Manitoba now?**

A: Yes. You can practice arboriculture in Manitoba if you currently have ISA certification.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ARBORISTS WORKING IN MANITOBA**

In Manitoba damaging forest pests and diseases, both invasive and naturally occurring, are regulated under The Forest Health Protection Act. There are several regulations under the Act that are important for arborists to be aware of when working in this province. There are regulations for the control of Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borer, and other invasive species.

## Dutch Elm Disease (DED)

DED, a lethal fungal disease of elms, is managed through provincial Community Forest Grant Agreements in 38 Manitoba communities.

Winnipeg maintains its own DED management program. Because of the success of Manitoba's Dutch Elm Disease Management Program, elms are still an important part of our urban forests.

For more information, please visit:

[https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/environment\\_and\\_biodiversity/invasive\\_species/forests\\_and\\_lands/index.html](https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/environment_and_biodiversity/invasive_species/forests_and_lands/index.html)



## Regulations

- **Elm trees cannot be pruned between April 1<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>.** If a limb is badly damaged and poses an immediate risk to safety, it can be removed during the ban if approved by the Forestry Branch. Please call 204-945-7866 or send an email to [treeline@gov.mb.ca](mailto:treeline@gov.mb.ca).
- The storage and movement of barked elm wood is illegal in Manitoba. Elm wood should be chipped or taken directly to a disposal site (contact your local municipality for disposal locations).
- Elm trees can be removed at any time but must be cut flush to the ground or debarked to the soil line.

## Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

EAB, an invasive wood boring beetle that kills ash trees, was detected in Manitoba late in 2017, in Winnipeg. It has not yet been found in any other locations in the province. For more information about EAB, please visit:

[https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/forest\\_land/health/emerald\\_ash\\_borer.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/pubs/forest_land/health/emerald_ash_borer.pdf).



## Regulations

- EAB is regulated by both the federal and provincial governments.
- Winnipeg is an EAB regulated area. **No firewood of any species, ash wood/material (including wood chips, packaging material), ash trees or ash nursery stock can be moved out of the regulated area (city limits)** without written permission from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).
- No ash material can be brought into Manitoba from Ontario, Quebec, or the USA.

## Other Invasive Species Regulations

- Anyone who knows or has reasonable grounds to believe that an invasive forest threat is present in Manitoba must immediately notify the Forestry Branch and provide all information he or she has about it.
- An inspector or officer may, at any reasonable time and without a warrant, enter upon any land to inspect trees and forest products to determine if they are affected by a forest threat.

## For More Information

Please contact the Forestry Branch at 204-945-7866 or [treeline@gov.mb.ca](mailto:treeline@gov.mb.ca).

For information on obtaining ISA certification, please visit [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com) or call at 1-888-472-8733.

Manitoba's Arborists legislation: [The Forest Health Protection Act](#) and [Arborists Regulation](#)

Manitoba Urban Forest Council: <https://www.mbufc.ca/>