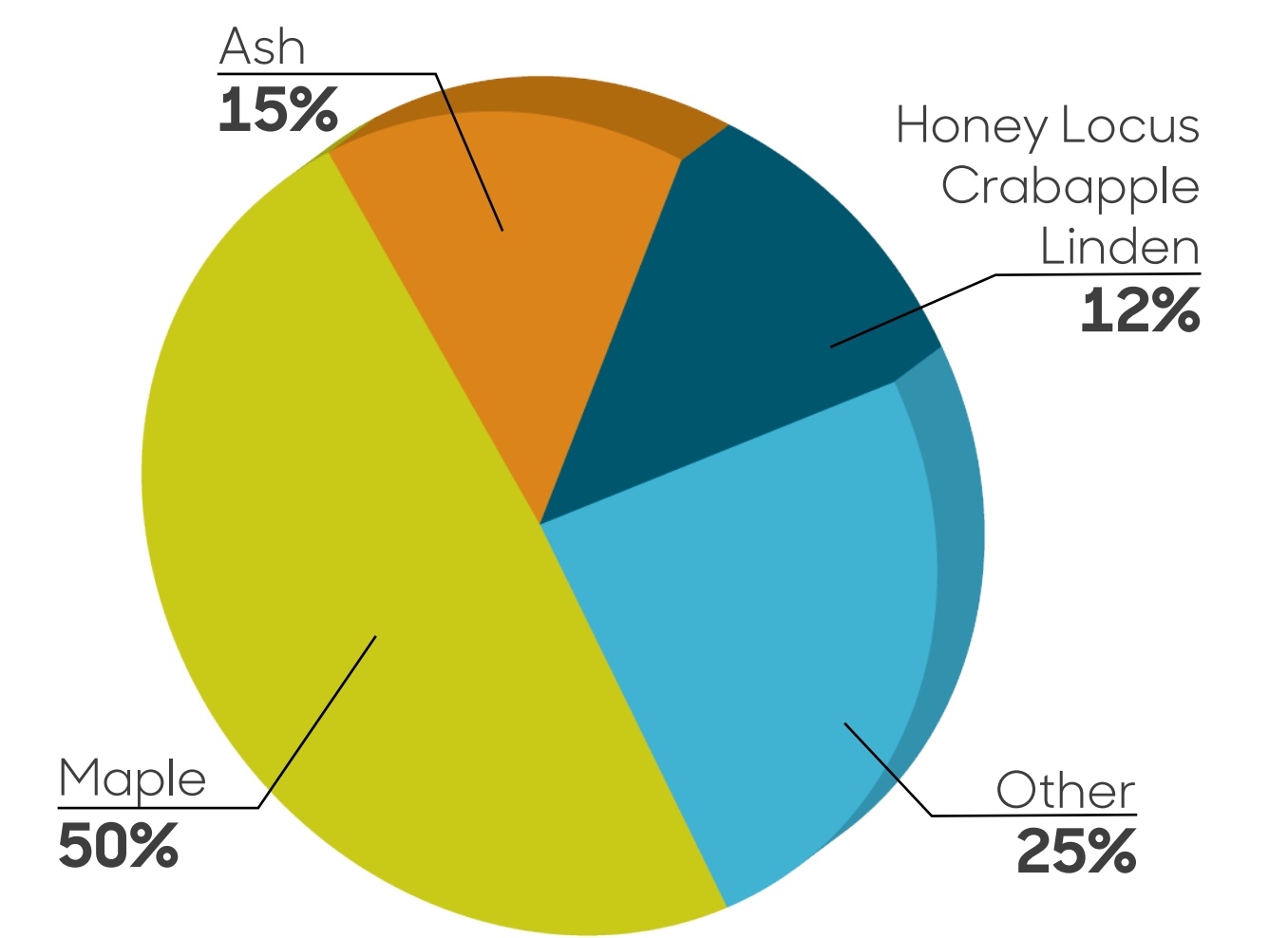


Map Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Natural Resources Geographic Information Systems Library," <http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/nrgislib/>, and City of Decorah | City Government and Services, "EAB Management Plan", <http://www.decorahia.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EAB-Management-Plan-Map.pdf>.

The Urban Forest

The map on the left depicts city owned trees that have been surveyed by the City of Decorah | City Government and Services.¹ The trees are divided into two categories: healthy trees and ash trees.

"Healthy" trees are shown with a green circle. The graphic below shows how many of the city's trees are of the same species. With proper planning and management, the diversity city's canopy can be improved by planting suitable trees that can gradually diversify the species. Improving species diversity will create a more resilient urban forest.



"Ash" trees are distinguished with a purple cross. They are under imminent threat from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB),* an invasive beetle that disrupts circulation in the tree resulting in the loss of tens of millions of ash trees in North America.² EAB was first discovered in Iowa in 2010 and was confirmed in 30 Iowa counties as of 2016.³ There is a strong possibility that 15% (Ash trees) of Decorah's city owned trees will die once EAB is carried to the area.

¹ City of Decorah | City Government and Services, "EAB Management Plan", <http://www.decorahia.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EAB-Management-Plan-Map.pdf>.

² EAB is a significant threat to our urban, suburban, and rural forests because it kills stressed and healthy ash trees. EAB is so aggressive that ash trees may die within two or three years after they become infested. Ash trees are as important ecologically as they are economically in the forests of the eastern United States. Emerald Ash Borer the Green Menace, USDA Program Aid No. 1769, 2008, https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/content/printable_version/EAB-GreenMenace-reprint_June09.pdf.

³ "Iowa Tree Pests website," Entomology and Plant Science Bureau of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), last updated February 9, 2016, http://www.iowatreepests.com/eab_home.html.

Bioregional Context

Julia Badenhope, Ngoc Ho, Carol Ustine

Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation