

Homeowner Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Treatment

Dore Cappert, MSU



Emerald ash borer adult

Insecticide products are available to homeowners for management of the emerald ash borer (EAB). Treatments may be needed every year to protect ash trees from the EAB. Treatments are suggested only for use by homeowners in the quarantined area; it may not be necessary to treat ash trees outside of this area. Treatments may be more effective if tree health is maintained. Therefore, it is important to fertilize trees in the fall or spring and water regularly, especially during periods of drought.

Treatment Considerations

Because of the expense of yearly treatments, it is important to weigh the decision to treat carefully. Consider the value of the tree in relation to treatment costs. Also consider the health of the tree. Research suggests that insecticide treatments may be able to save infested trees exhibiting low to moderate crown dieback (20 to 40 percent), but the outcome is less certain than with healthy trees showing little or no sign of crown dieback.



Healthy ash tree: no dieback.

Treatment Options

An insecticide product available for home use is Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control.

Caution: read and follow all label instructions before using any pesticide, avoid skin contact, and store pesticides where children cannot reach them.

Eric Rebek, MSU



Ash tree exhibiting 40 percent dieback.

Active ingredient	Product	Timing	Type of application and instructions
Imidacloprid	Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control	May to early June	Soil drench Mix with water according to label directions and apply as a drench around base of tree. Prior to treatment, pull mulch and other organic material away at least 12"-14" from the base of the tree. After treatment, return mulch to base of the tree.



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Application of soil drench around tree base.

Registered Product Description

Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control is a systemic insecticide applied as a soil drench around the base of a tree. There are several Bayer Advanced Garden products — be sure to choose the one with “Tree and Shrub” in large print on the label and imidacloprid as the active ingredient. Label instructions say to use 1 ounce of the insecticide for every inch of distance around the tree trunk (circumference). Applications should be made according to all label directions in May. This product is available at most local hardware and garden stores. More information about this product is available at

<http://www.bayeradvanced.com>.

Treatment Suggestions

- Small trees — trunk diameter of 3 inches or less — should be treated using Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control.
- Trees with a trunk diameter between 3 and 6 inches should be treated with Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control.
- Larger trees — trunk diameter greater than 6 inches — should be treated with Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control for the first 1 to 2 years.
- Homeowners may also contact tree care professionals to treat their trees. Professionals have access to some products that are not available to homeowners. The product discussed in this bulletin is mentioned because it has been evaluated in Michigan State University (MSU) research tests on the emerald ash borer.

For more information, visit:
www.paemeraldashborer.psu.edu
www.emeraldashborer.info

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