

Understanding and Choosing Treatments by Professionals*

Professional treatments for emerald ash borer have advantages and disadvantages. When choosing an arborist to treat your trees, look for a certified[†] arborist and discuss with them their treatment methods.

Trunk Injection

- Involves pressure-injecting an insecticide into holes spaced around the lower trunk of the tree.
- Most methods require drilling the holes.
- Usually done in late spring to early summer before EAB eggs hatch.
- All injection methods cause some internal damage.
- Large, deep holes can cause extensive internal damage that may affect the long-term health of the tree, even if EAB is controlled.
- In general, the smaller the hole and amount of product injected, the less damage to the tree.

Foliar or bark sprays

- Foliar sprays control adult beetles feeding on leaves.
- Bark sprays protect against branch and trunk attack by newly hatched larvae.
- Applied in late spring or early summer prior to emergence of adults. A second application may be required in midsummer.
- Pesticide exposure to non-target organisms is a concern.

Soil treatment

- Applied as a drench or by injection into the soil.
- Taken up by the roots and carried throughout the tree.
- Distribution in large trees may be uneven, resulting in inadequate control.
- Exposes soil to insecticidal residues. Contamination of lakes, streams, groundwater, wells and other water resources is possible.
- The most commonly applied soil treatment contains imidacloprid, which typically requires 60 days or longer to distribute throughout the tree. Application is done in fall or early to mid-spring.

Insecticide Treatments for Homeowners

A limited number of insecticides are available to homeowners. Because control of EAB can be difficult, consider a professional treatment for large trees.

Soil drench or soil-applied granules

- Applied around the trunk for uptake through the roots.
- May not be evenly distributed in large trees, resulting in inadequate control.
- Exposes soil to pesticide. Potential for contamination of water resources: lakes, streams, wells, groundwater, etc.
- Example of a product: “*Tree & Shrub Insect Control*”[‡] (active ingredient: imidacloprid or dinotefuran).

Trunk implants

- Placed in holes drilled around the trunk.
- Proper installation of implants requires skill to limit the internal damage that occurs.
- Cumulative effects of trunk damage is a concern.
- Example of a product: “*Acecap*”[‡] (active ingredient: acephate).

Foliar spray

- Difficulty achieving good spray coverage of large trees.
- Multiple applications in a season are needed.
- Exposes environment to pesticide. Drift of spray possible.
- Example of a product: “*Borer, Bagworm, Tent Caterpillar & Leafminer Spray*”[‡] (active ingredient: spinosad).

*For more details on treatment options, see publication FH13-2012: "Emerald Ash Borer Treatment Options"

† For information on how to hire a certified arborist, visit the Nebraska Forest Service: www.nfs.unl.edu/EAB.asp

‡ Mention of product does not indicate endorsement. Read and follow pesticide label.