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University of Wisconsin Pest Alert

Professional Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatments

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Emerald ash borer insecticide treatment considerations. A variety of insecticide products and application methods are available to professionals for control of the emerald ash borer (EAB). Since the presence and infestation level of EAB is quite difficult to determine at early stages of an infestation, insecticide treatments may be merited to prevent and mitigate damage by EAB. However, not all ash trees should be treated as some may be too extensively compromised or in poor condition to receive treatment. Due to the expense of yearly insecticide treatments, one should consider the value of a particular ash tree in relation to insecticide treatment costs before making any treatments. In addition, consider the health of each tree before treating. Research suggests that insecticide treatments are significantly more effective on EAB-infested ash trees with less than 50% canopy thinning. Insecticide treatments are **not** suggested for trees with greater than 50% canopy thinning. Ash trees with greater than 50% canopy thinning should be removed and destroyed in accordance with established local, state and federal guidelines. For additional information on this topic, see University of Wisconsin Garden Pest Alert XHT1215, *Is My Ash Tree Worth Treating for Emerald Ash Borer*.

Emerald ash borer insecticide treatment options. Insecticide products that are available for use by professionals, with information on appropriate application methods and application timings, are summarized in Table 1. These products include:

- Ace-Jet [acephate]
- ACECAP Systemic Insecticide Tree Implants [acephate]
- ArborMectin [emamectin benzoate]
- AzaGuard [azadirachtin]
- Bifen XTS [bifenthrin]
- Boxer Insecticide-Miticide [emamectin benzoate]
- GCS Bifenthrin 2EC [bifenthrin]
- IMA-jet, IMA-jet 10 [imidacloprid]
- Imicide, Imicide HP [imidacloprid]
- Languard AZA [azadirachtin]
- Mallet (2F, 75 WSP) [imidacloprid]
- Mectinite [emamectin benzoate]
- Merit (2F, 75 WP, 75 WSP) [imidacloprid]
- OnyxPro [bifenthrin]
- Pointer [imidacloprid]
- Safari [dinotefuran]
- SymTREE EB [emamectin benzoate]
- Tempo Ultra (WP, WSP) [cyfluthrin]
- Transect [dinotefuran]
- Tree-äge G4, Tree-äge R10 [emamectin benzoate]
- Treeazin [azadirachtin]
- TreeMec Inject [emamectin benzoate]
- Xytect (2F, 75 WSP, 10% infusible) [imidacloprid]
- Zylam [dinotefuran]

University research indicates that soil drenches or injections of imidacloprid provide excellent EAB protection for small ash trees [less than six inches diameter at breast height (DBH)] in the first year following treatment. Larger trees may require two consecutive years of treatment before they are effectively protected. Thus, treatment of large trees should begin before the trees become infested. While spring and/or fall applications are allowed on certain product labels, recent university research has indicated that spring applications have been more effective at controlling EAB and protecting canopy health. Most insecticide treatments must be repeated each year. Products containing emamectin benzoate are labeled to provide two years of protection. Recent university research suggests that some of these products may provide three or more years of protection with a single application when used at the highest labeled rate.



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Trunk injections and implants require physically drilling or coring into a tree during the application of the insecticide. Thus, use of these application methods has the potential to cause injury to trees (especially smaller trees) and may provide entry points for certain disease-causing pathogens [e.g., *Nectria*, the cause of Nectria canker (see University of Wisconsin Garden Facts XHT1094 *Nectria Canker*)].

Table 1. EAB insecticide treatments available to professionals*

Active Ingredient	Product(s)	Timing	Application Method
Acephate	ACE-Jet	Mid-May to mid-June	Trunk Injection
	Acecap Implants		Trunk Implant
Azadirachtin	AzaGuard, Lalgard AZA, Treeazin	Early/mid-April to early September	Trunk Injection
Bifenthrin	Bifen XTS, GCS Bifenthrin, OnyxPro	Apply prior to or just at the time of adult emerge. Multiple applications may be needed	Preventative bark and foliage cover sprays
Cyfluthrin	Tempo Ultra (WP, WSP)		
Dinotefuran	Safari, Transtect, Zylam	Late-April to late-May	Soil drench, trunk spray
Emamectin benzoate	ArborMectin, Boxer, Mectinite, SymTREE EB, Tree-äge G4, Tree-äge R10, TreeMec	April to September	Trunk injection
Imidacloprid	Mallet (2F, 75 WSP), Merit (2F, 75 WP, 75 WSP), Xytect (2F, 75 WSP), and others	Mid-April to mid-May and/or Early-Sept. to mid-October	Soil injection or drench
	IMA-jet, IMA-jet 10, Imicide, Imicide HP, Pointer, Xytect 10%	Mid-April to mid-May	Trunk injection

The University of Wisconsin does not endorse any one specific commercially available insecticide. Products discussed in this fact sheet have been evaluated in a variety of university research tests on EAB (www.emeraldashborer.info/). No matter which insecticide you use, always read and follow all label instructions. Avoid skin contact with insecticides and safely store insecticides out of the reach of children.

For more information on controlling emerald ash borer: See eab.russell.wisc.edu, www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov or www.emeraldashborer.info, University of Wisconsin Pest Alerts XHT1181 (*Homeowner Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatments*) and XHT1215 (*Is My Ash Tree Worth Treating for Emerald Ash Borer*) or contact your county Extension agent.

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References to pesticide products in this publication are for your convenience and are not an endorsement or criticism of one product over similar products. You are responsible for using pesticides according to the manufacturer's current label directions. Follow directions exactly to protect the environment and people from pesticide exposure. Failure to do so violates the law.

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Additional factsheets are available at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension's Horticulture website: hort.extension.wisc.edu