

# Professional Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatments

R. Chris Williamson and P.J. Liesch, UW Entomology

**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 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 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)
- Astro (permethrin)
- IMA-jet (imidacloprid)
- Imicide (imidacloprid)
- Inject-A-Cide B (bidrin)
- Merit (imidacloprid)
- Onyx, OnyxPro (bifenthrin)
- Pointer (imidacloprid)
- Safari (dinotefuran)
- Tempo (cyfluthrin)
- Transtect (dinotefuran)
- Tree-äge (emamectin benzoate)
- AborMectin (emamectin benzoate)
- Treeazin (azadirachtin)
- Xytect (imidacloprid)

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. However university research suggests that



Tree-äge may provide more than three years of control with a single application when used at the highest labeled rate.

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 fungi [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\***

Product	Active Ingredient	Timing	Application Method
Tree-äge	Emamectin benzoate	April to September	Trunk injection, Arborjet
ArborMectin	Emamectin benzoate	April to September	Trunk injection, Rotam
Treeazin	Azadirachtin	Early/mid-April to early September	Trunk Injection; Ecoject
ACE-Jet	Acephate	Mid-May to mid-June	Trunk Injection; Arborjet
Acecap Implants			Trunk Implant
Merit (75 WP, 75 WSP, 2F) Xytect (2F, 75WSP, Infusible)	Imidacloprid	Mid-April to late-May and/or Early-Sept. to mid-October	Soil injection or drench
IMA-jet		Mid-April to mid-May	Trunk injection, Arborjet
Imicide			Trunk injection, Mauget
Pointer			Trunk injection, Wedgle
Inject-A-Cide B	Bidrin	Mid-April to mid-May	Trunk injection, Mauget
Safari	Dinotefuran	Late-April to late-May	Soil drench, trunk spray
Transtect			
Astro	Permethrin	Two applications at four week intervals with the first application when black locust is blooming	Preventative bark and foliage cover sprays
Onyx	Bifenthrin		
OnyxPro			
Tempo	Cyfluthrin		

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](http://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 [www.entomology.wisc.edu/emeraldashborer](http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/emeraldashborer), [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov) or [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://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 Chris Williamson at (608) 262-4608 or at [rcwillie@entomology.wisc.edu](mailto:rcwillie@entomology.wisc.edu).

© 2009-2015 by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System doing business as the division of Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin Extension. An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. This document can be provided in an alternative format by calling Brian Hudelson at (608) 262-2863 (711 for Wisconsin Relay). 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. Thanks to Patti Nagai, Phil Pellitteri and Bob Tomesh for reviewing this document. A complete inventory of University of Wisconsin Garden Facts is available at the University of Wisconsin-Extension Horticulture website: <http://hort.uwex.edu>.