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Homeowner Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatments

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Emerald ash borer insecticide treatment considerations. Several insecticide products are available to homeowners for control of emerald ash borer (EAB). However, not all ash trees are worth treating with insecticides. Tree location, value, and health, as well as the cost of treatment are all factors to consider. Based on current research, treatments are suggested only for ash trees located within 15 miles of a confirmed EAB site, or for trees located within a quarantined area. Insecticide treatments are not necessary for ash trees located outside of these areas. Even within the 15 mile radius, not all trees should be treated. 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. Trees with greater than 50% canopy thinning should be removed and destroyed in accordance with established guidelines. For a more detailed discussion on this topic, see University of Wisconsin Garden Facts XHT1215, "Is My Ash Tree Worth Treating for Emerald Ash Borer".

Emerald ash borer insecticide treatment options. Insecticide products available for use by homeowners are summarized in Table 1. They include:

- ACECAP 97 Systemic Insecticide Tree Implants (acephate)
- Amdro Tree & Shrub Care Concentrate (imidacloprid)
- Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub Insect Control II (imidacloprid)
- Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub Protect & Feed (imidacloprid)
- Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub Protect & Feed II (imidacloprid + clothianidin)
- Compare N Save Systemic Tree & Shrub Insect Drench (imidacloprid)
- Ferti-lome Tree and Shrub Systemic Drench (imidacloprid)
- Monterey Once a Year Insect Control II (imidacloprid)
- Optrol (imidacloprid)
- Ortho Bug-B-Gone Year Long Tree & Shrub Insect Control (imidacloprid)

Most of the products available to homeowners are systemic insecticides containing imidacloprid and are applied as soil drenches around the base of an ash tree. A few granular products are also available. Recent university research suggests that spring applications of imidacloprid may be most effective. Research also has demonstrated that soil applications of imidacloprid-containing homeowner products provide excellent EAB protection for ash trees that are less than about 47 inches in circumference [i.e., 15 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH)]. Due to differences in application rates and label restrictions, treatment by a tree care professional (e.g., arborist) may be the best option for larger trees. For best results, treatment of trees should begin before trees become infested. Lastly, insecticide treatments must be repeated each year.

Be aware that many insecticide products available at hardware stores and garden centers look alike. Carefully check all product labels before purchase to make sure that you have selected the correct product/active ingredient. ALWAYS read and follow the pesticide label directions on the product that you select!

Finally, note that although ACECAP 97 Systemic Insecticide Tree Implants are available to homeowners, we do NOT recommend that homeowners use these because they require physically drilling into a tree during their application.

Table 1 <i>Emerald ash borer insecticide treatments available to homeowners</i>			
<i>Product</i>	<i>Active Ingredient</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Type of application</i>
<i>Amdro Tree & Shrub Care Concentrate (D)</i>	<i>Imidacloprid</i>	<i>Mid-April to mid-May</i>	<i>Soil Drench (D) or Granular (G)</i>
<i>Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Insect Control II (D)</i>			
<i>Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Protect & Feed (D or G)</i>			
<i>Compare N Save Systemic Tree & Shrub Systemic Insect Drench (D)</i>			
<i>Ferti-lome Tree & Shrub Systemic Drench (D)</i>			
<i>Monterey Once a Year Insect Control II (D)</i>			
<i>Ortho Bug B Gone year Long Tree & Shrub Insect Control (D)</i>			
<i>Optrol (D)</i>	<i>Imidacloprid</i>	<i>Mid-April to mid-May and/or Early-Sept. to mid-Oct.</i>	<i>Soil drench (D)</i>

<i>Bayer Advanced Garden Tree & Shrub Protect & Feed II (D or G)</i>	<i>Imidacloprid + Clothianidin</i>	<i>Mid-April to mid-May</i>	<i>Soil Drench (D) or Granular (G)</i>
<i>ACECAP 97 Systemic Insecticide Tree Implants</i>	<i>Acephate</i>	<i>Mid-May to mid-June</i>	<i>Trunk Implant</i>

Other emerald ash borer treatment options. Homeowners may also contact a certified arborist or certified pesticide applicator to treat their trees. See <http://www.waa-isa.org> ^[14] for a list of certified arborists in Wisconsin. Professionals have access to some products that are not available to homeowners.

The University of Wisconsin does not endorse commercially available insecticide products over those available directly to homeowners. Products discussed in this fact sheet have been evaluated in Michigan State University research tests on EAB.

Article Links

[YouTube Video - Protecting Your Ash Tree from EAB](#) ^[15]

[The Wisconsin Gardener Video - Trees to Plant Instead of Ash](#) ^[16]

[Professional Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatments](#) ^[17]

Attachment

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[Alternatives to Ash for Homeowners](#) ^[19]

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