

## Homeowner Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Treatments

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Several insecticide products are available to homeowners for control of emerald ash borer (EAB). Treatments are needed **every year** in order to protect ash trees from EAB and they are recommended only for homeowners in the quarantined area; it is not necessary to treat ash trees outside of this area. At this time the quarantined area includes all of Monroe, Wayne, Macomb, St. Clair, Lenawee, Washtenaw, Oakland, Lapeer, Hillsdale, Jackson, Livingston, Genesee, Ingham, Shiawassee, Saginaw, Branch, Calhoun, Eaton, Clinton and Gratiot counties. Research tests have shown that we can protect healthy trees from emerald ash borer with insecticides, but we may not be able to save severely compromised trees. By the time you see dead branches, thinning of the canopy, and woodpecker activity, the tree is already severely damaged, and it may be too late to save it with insecticides. For most of the ash trees within an area defined by the following points; Downtown Detroit, Rockwood (near the mouth of the Detroit river), Milan (south of Ann Arbor), Ann Arbor, Brighton, Pontiac, and Sterling Heights, it is too late to save them unless they have already been treated in previous years.

Insecticide products available for home use include Bayer Advanced Garden™ Tree and Shrub Insect Control, Bonide® Systemic Insecticide Bullets and ACECAP® 97 Systemic Insecticide Tree Implants. *Caution:* read all label instructions before using any pesticide, avoid skin contact and store pesticides where children cannot reach them.

Bayer Advanced Garden™ Tree and Shrub Insect Control is a systemic insecticide applied as a soil drench around the base of trees. Since there are several Bayer Advanced Garden™ products, be sure to purchase 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). For example, a 20-year-old ash tree may have a trunk diameter of 10 inches and a circumference of 31 inches. For this tree you will need 31 ounces of insecticide. Pour 31 ounces of Tree and Shrub Insect Control into a bucket, fill it ¾-full with water, then pour the solution around the base of your ash tree. Applications should be made in April or early May.

Bonide® Systemic Insecticide Bullets and ACECAP® 97 Systemic Insecticide Tree Implants are similar products, both containing acephate as the active ingredient. The insecticide is delivered through small cartridges implanted in the trunk. Implants should be placed at 4-inch intervals around the trunk base. To determine the number of implants required, measure the trunk circumference (distance around the tree trunk) in inches at 4 ft. above the ground, then divide the circumference by 4. Using a tape measure, drill 3/8-inch diameter holes at 4-inch intervals starting approximately 6 inches above the soil surface and spiraling up and around the trunk base. Holes should be drilled in a slight upward spiral pattern, so that each hole is 1 - 2 inches above and 4" across from the previous hole. Drill holes through the bark into the tree, and continue drilling 1 ¼ inches deep under the bark. This is important because the bark