

## Homeowner Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Insecticide Treatments

R. Chris Williamson, UW Entomology

***Emerald ash borer insecticide treatment considerations.*** Several insecticide products are available to homeowners for control of emerald ash borer (EAB). Based on current research however, 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 dieback. Insecticide treatments are **not** suggested for trees with greater than 50% canopy dieback. Trees with greater than 50% canopy dieback should be removed and destroyed in accordance with established guidelines.

***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)
- Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control (imidacloprid)
- Bonide Annual Grub Beater (imidacloprid)
- Bonide Bullets (acephate)
- Ferti-lome Systemic Tree and Shrub Drench (imidacloprid)
- Gordon's Tree and Shrub Insect Killer (imidacloprid)
- Green Light Tree and Shrub Systemic Insect Killer (imidacloprid)
- Ortho Max Tree and Shrub Insect Killer (imidacloprid)
- VPG Hi-Yield Grub Free Zone (imidacloprid)

Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control, Bonide Annual Grub Beater, Ferti-lome Systemic Tree and Shrub Drench, Gordon's Tree and Shrub Insect Killer, Green Light Tree and Shrub Systemic Insect Killer, Ortho Max Tree and Shrub Insect Killer and VPG Hi-Yield Grub Free Zone are systemic insecticides applied as soil drenches around the base of an ash tree in mid-April to late-May and/or early-September to mid-October. Because there are several Bayer Advanced Garden products, be sure to select the "Tree and Shrub Insect Control" that contains imidacloprid as the active ingredient. ALWAYS read and follow the respective pesticide label directions! University research indicates that a soil drench of imidacloprid provides excellent EAB protection for small ash trees less than about 18 inches in circumference in the first year following treatment. Current research findings also suggest that EAB-infested ash trees greater than about 50 inches in circumference (16 inch DBH) should be treated in the fall and again the following spring. Additionally, larger trees may require two years of treatment before they are effectively protected. Thus, treatment of large tree should begin before the tree becomes infested. Lastly, insecticide treatments must be repeated each year.

Although Bonide Bullets and ACECAP 97 Systemic Insecticide Tree Implants are available to homeowners, they are not suggested for use by homeowners because they require physically drilling into a tree during their application.

**Table 1**  
***Emerald ash borer insecticide treatments available to homeowners***

<b>Product</b>	<b>Active Ingredient</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Type of application</b>
Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control	Imidacloprid	Mid-April to mid-May and/or early-Sept. to mid-Oct.	Soil Drench
Bonide Annual Grub Beater			
Ferti-lome Systemic Tree and Shrub Drench			
Gordon's Tree and Shrub Insect Killer			
Green Light Tree and Shrub Systemic Insect Killer			
Ortho Max Tree and Shrub Insect Killer			
VPG Hi-Yield Grub Free Zone			
Bonide Bullets	Acephate	Mid-May to mid-June	Trunk Implant
ACECAP 97 Systemic Insecticide Tree Implants	Acephate	Mid-May to mid-June	Trunk Implant

**Other emerald ash borer treatment options.** Homeowners may also contact a certified arborist or certified pesticide applicator to treat their trees. See [www.waa-isa.org](http://www.waa-isa.org) 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 a variety of Michigan State University research tests on EAB.

**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) 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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A complete inventory of University of Wisconsin Garden Facts is available at the University of Wisconsin-Extension Horticulture website: [whort.uwex.edu](http://whort.uwex.edu).