

# Homeowner Guide to Emerald Ash Borer Treatments

Dave Cappaert, MSU



Emerald ash borer adult

Several insecticide products are available to homeowners for control of emerald ash borer (EAB). Treatments are needed every year to protect trees from EAB. Treatments are recommended only for homeowners in the quarantined area; it is not necessary to treat ash trees outside of this area. Treatments may be more effective if overall tree health is maintained. Therefore, it is important to fertilize trees in the fall or spring and water regularly.

## Treatment Considerations

Because of the expense of yearly treatments, it is important to weigh the decision to treat carefully. Consider the value of the tree in relation to treatment costs. Also consider the health of the tree. Research suggests that insecticide treatments may be able to save infested trees exhibiting low to moderate dieback (20 to 40 percent), but the outcome is less certain than with healthy trees showing little or no sign of infestation.



Healthy ash tree: no dieback.

## Treatment Options

The insecticide product available for home use is Bayer Advanced Garden™ Tree and Shrub Insect Control. For additional treatment options, contact a local professional arborist. Caution: read all label instructions before using any pesticide, avoid skin contact, and store pesticides where children cannot reach them.

Eric Rebek, MSU



Ash tree exhibiting 40 percent dieback.

Active ingredient	Product	Timing	Type of application and instructions
Imidacloprid	Bayer Advanced Garden™ Tree and Shrub Insect Control	May to early June	Soil drench Mix with water and drench around base of tree





Eric Rebeck, MSU

Application of soil drench around tree base.

### Product Descriptions

Bayer Advanced Garden™ Tree and Shrub Insect Control is a systemic insecticide applied as a soil drench around the base of a tree. 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). Applications should be made in May or early June. This product is available at most local hardware and garden stores. More information about the product is available at [www.bayeradvanced.com](http://www.bayeradvanced.com).

### Treatment Recommendations

- Research results indicate that the soil drench provides excellent protection for small ash trees (less than 6 inches in diameter at breast height) in the first year following treatment, but larger trees may require two years of treatment before they are protected. Therefore, it is important to begin treating large trees before they become infested. Treatment must continue each year.

- At sites where infested ash trees have been treated with a soil drench for 3 years, about half of the trees survived and look very healthy; the other half have died. These trees were heavily infested when the test began. Better results are possible if treatments begin a year or two earlier.
- Note: Homeowners may also contact tree care professionals to treat their trees. Professionals have access to **some products that are not available to homeowners**. Michigan State University does not **endorse the** insecticide products discussed in the bulletin over other options. **These products are discussed because they have been evaluated in MSU research tests on emerald ash borer.**

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For more information, visit:  
[www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info).