

Emerald Ash Borer Treatment

Treating ash trees with insecticides to manage emerald ash borer (EAB) is a long-term commitment. Professional arborists can help you determine which trees can be effectively treated with specific insecticides. Preventative insecticide treatments should focus on healthy, high-value ash trees planted along streets or in yards or parks. It is not practical or cost effective to treat woodland trees.

1: Is it time to treat?

Locate where your property is in relation to the state's identified [Infested Areas](#). Trees that are in [Infested Areas](#) can be considered for treatment. For trees that are outside this area, no treatment is recommended. Continue to monitor ash trees and the extent of the [Infested Areas](#).

2: Is my tree worth treating?

Ash trees can be a valuable part of the landscape. A healthy ash tree can increase property value, improve air and water quality, and provide shade. Determine if an ash tree is valuable enough to warrant long-term protection by considering the health the tree, shape, and location. Healthy trees have full crowns, elongating branches, and bark held tightly to the trunk and branches. If the tree is damaged, exhibits more than 30% canopy dieback, or is growing in a poor site, replace the tree with an alternate species. See our [tree selection tool](#).

3: How do I treat my tree?

If your tree is in the [Infested Area](#) and warrants long-term protection, your tree should be evaluated for potential insecticide treatment by a professional arborist. The efficacy of an insecticide depends on factors such as tree health, tree age, pest population, site conditions, and frequency of application. Insecticide applications must be performed by a certified pesticide applicator that holds an active commercial license with the Agency of Agriculture in Ornamentals & Shade Tree pest control. Although there are homeowner products available, they can harm pollinators and are not recommended.

If an ash tree is in the Infested Area, warrants long-term protection, and a is good candidate for treatment, follow these guidelines:

- Contact a certified pesticide applicator to inject a systemic insecticide directly into the tree's trunk. Systemic chemicals are transported within the vascular system of the tree from the roots and trunk to the branches and leaves. Insecticides applied as soil injection or drenches, trunk sprays, or cover sprays are not recommended due to their increased potential for chemical exposure. Trunk injecting systemic insecticides reduces hazards such as drift They also have less impact on beneficial organisms.
- Products that contain emamectin benzoate and azadirachtin are recommended. Emamectin benzoate lasts longer than other products and can be applied every other year. It is generally more effective for mature, large ash trees. Azadirachtin is effective for two years when EAB populations are low but must be injected yearly when EAB populations are high.
- See [Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Potential Side Effects of Systemic Insecticides Used To Control Emerald Ash Borer](#) for more information.

Report suspicious findings and learn more at VTinvasives.org



Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program

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