



# Cornell University Cooperative Extension Onondaga County

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## Managing Emerald Ash Borer and Your Ash Trees

- **Confirm you have ash.** Ash trees look very similar to species such as walnut, hickory, sumac, box elder and tree of heaven. Use a key to make sure your tree is ash. Refer to the ash identification handout.
- **Assess the condition of your tree.** What you do with your tree and when will depend on the health of your tree. Look for signs of stress like a thinning canopy, sprouts coming from the base of the tree or trunk, woodpecker damage, discolored leaves, and lots of seeds. If you are not comfortable assessing your tree, a certified arborist can help.
- **Decide on your management options (see options below).**
- **Call a certified arborist for tree inspection and removal assistance.** An arborist can inform you about the health of the tree, what treatment options they offer and how much removal may cost. Removal should be done by a certified arborist with liability insurance. Be sure to ask for and check local references.
- **Call a certified applicator and registered pesticide business for pesticide treatment assistance.** Pesticide applications conducted by someone other than the property owner need to be done by a certified pesticide applicator that is employed by a NYS DEC registered business. We also recommend that the tree species is confirmed by an expert before the tree is treated.

### MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

- **If you are within 5 miles of a known infestation you should decide on and implement your management plan now.**
- **If you are greater than 5 miles away from a known infestation, carefully inspect your trees for signs of EAB and decide on a management plan.** EAB can cause rapid decline, be prepared to act as soon as EAB is confirmed locally.
- **Trees that are healthy: It's important to keep healthy trees in our landscape as long as possible.**
  - Insecticides aren't as effective in unhealthy trees, but may still help. Severely damaged and dying trees should be removed. Do not waste money on insecticides that won't work.
  - Soil drenches available to homeowners are not very effective when EAB occurs in high numbers. You will need to plan on switching to a professional pesticide applicator for tree injection methods once EAB becomes more prevalent, if you want to save your tree indefinitely.

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- **Trees that are unhealthy:** Infested ash trees become brittle and can fall as whole trees or large pieces, which make dying and dead ash very dangerous. Unhealthy trees will need to be removed sooner than later, but trees that are only moderately unhealthy may be kept alive longer with treatment.
  - Trees that are under stress and unhealthy may still be good candidates for insecticides. Treatments with at 70% in tact canopy may be candidates for preservation.
  - If trees are too unhealthy for treatment to be effective, then plan on removing them while they are still alive and in sound condition. Dead and decaying trees are more expensive to remove because of the hazards involved.
- Talk to your neighbors to see who else will be treating or removing their trees. Companies may offer bulk purchase discounts for neighbors.
- If you decide not to save your tree with an insecticide treatment, and the tree will not harm people, structures, vehicles or infrastructure, when it falls there is the option of doing nothing at all.
- Plan to replace your tree!
- Be aware that movement of ash materials is regulated. In May 2015, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets revised the quarantine regulations. If 30% or more of a town falls within the core infested area and/or surrounding five mile buffer, it will be included in the restricted quarantine zone. Ash wood, logs, nursery stock and untreated firewood cannot be moved outside the quarantine area. See <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/47761.html> for more information.

### **Insecticides Legal in New York State for treatment of EAB**

Active Ingredient	Product Names	Treatment Frequency	Application Method	Timing
<i>Professional Application</i>				
Emamectin benzoate	Tree-Age	Every 2-3 years	Trunk injection	Spring
Imidacloprid	Merit	1-2 times per year	Trunk injection	Spring
	Xytect		Soil injection	Fall or Spring
	Ima-jet Imicide		Soil drench	Spring: all sizes at 1X rate Fall: trees over 15" at 2X rate
Dinotefuran	Safari	Once per year	Basal bark spray	Spring – Fall
Azadirachtin	TreeAzin	Once per year	Trunk injection	Spring
<i>Homeowner Application</i>				
Imidacloprid	Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub	Once per year	Soil drench	Spring

Pesticide application information compiled by Mark Whitmore, Cornell University.