



Cornell University Cooperative Extension Onondaga County

The Atrium, Suite 170
2 Clinton Square
Syracuse, NY 13202
Telephone: 315.424.9485
Fax: 315.424.7056
E-mail: onondaga@cornell.edu
www.ExtendOnondaga.org

August 2013

Emerald Ash Borer is Here, Now What?

NEXT STEPS

- **Confirm you have ash.** Ash trees look very similar to species such as walnut, hickory, sumac, box elder and tree of heaven. Even certified arborists can misidentify ash trees. Use a key to make sure your tree is ash.
- **Assess the condition of your tree.** What you do with your tree and when will depend on the health of your tree now. 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 assistance.** An arborist can inform you about the health of the tree, what treatment options they offer and what how much a removal may cost. Removal and pesticide applications (beyond soil drench) need to be done by a certified arborist and licensed pesticide applicator with local references and liability insurance.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

- **If you are within 10 miles from a known infestation, you should decide on your management plan now.**
- **Trees that are healthy: It's important to keep healthy trees in our landscape as long as possible.** You can wait until next spring to begin active management, but now is a good time to protect your trees from any eggs that will be laid now. A soil drench (homeowner application) or basal bark application (certified pesticide applicator) can be applied now. Plan on applying again next spring, or switching to an injected pesticide.
 - **Insecticides aren't as effective in unhealthy trees, but may still help.** Severely damaged and decaying trees should be removed. Don't waste money on insecticides that won't work.
 - **Soil drenches are not very effective under high pest pressure.** You will need to plan on switching application methods once EAB becomes more prevalent.

Sustainable. Educational. Local.

- **Trees that are unhealthy:** Ash trees decay quickly and fall in large chunks, which make a dead ash extra dangerous. Unhealthy trees will need to be removed sooner than later, but trees that are only moderately unhealthy may be kept longer with insecticides.
 - Trees that are under stress and unhealthy may still be good candidates for insecticides. Basal bark sprays can be effective, but should be considered a temporary measure to tide you over until you have to remove the tree.
 - If trees are too unhealthy for insecticides to be effective plan on removing the tree very soon.
 - Dead and decaying trees are more expensive to remove because of the hazards involved. If you know you will remove the tree, plan on removing it while it is still sound.
- 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, you may consider doing nothing at all.
- Plan to replace your tree! You could plant

Insecticides Legal in New York State for treatment of EAB

Active Ingredient	Product Names	Treatment Frequency	Application Method
<i>Professional Application</i>			
Emamectin benzoate	Tree-Age	Every 2-3 years	Trunk injection
Imidacloprid	Merit	1-2 times per year	Trunk injection
	Xytect		Soil injection
	Ima-jet Imicide		Soil drench
Azadirachtin	TreeAzin	Once per year	Trunk injection
<i>Homeowner Application</i>			
Imidacloprid	Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub	Once per year	Soil drench

Pesticide application information compiled by Mark Whitmore, Cornell University