

Emerald Ash Borer Treatment



Kentucky Division of Forestry

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Six steps to help guide landowners through EAB treatments

1) Decide if treatment is warranted

Ash treatment is recommended for landowners who live in or neighbor counties that are currently infested. The map on the right shows the current known distribution of EAB. However, it is possible that additional counties are infested beyond what has been reported to date.

The publication, [Managing Emerald Ash Borer: Decision Guide](#), is a useful tool to help decide which trees should be treated. If a tree is unhealthy and showing decline in 50% or more of the canopy



then treatment is not recommended. Also, keep in mind that trees will likely have to be treated for at least seven years before applications can be reduced or stopped. Chemical treatment, however, is much cheaper than paying to have a tree removed!

2) Professional or landowner treatment?

Use the [International Society of Arboriculture website](#) to search for local certified arborists or treat trees yourself by purchasing insecticide online or from stores with lawn and garden sections.

3) When to treat trees?

Trees should be treated in early to mid-spring. In Kentucky, it is best to treat from the end of March through the end of May.

4) Purchasing insecticide

Landowners should purchase tree/shrub insecticide products that have either imidacloprid or dinotefuran listed as active ingredients. These products can be found at local agricultural stores or online. Make sure that the product is labelled for “controlling emerald ash borer”.



5) Soil drench treatments

Most products available to landowners are applied by a soil drench. Make sure to read and follow the label of the specific pesticide product being used. General treatment guidelines include:

- Measure the diameter of the tree and follow label directions to acquire the chemical application rate
- Mix the insecticide with the recommended amount of water
- Clear away mulch and leaf litter before application and pour the mixture directly on the soil around the base of the tree
- Applications should be done when the soil is moist but not saturated or excessively dry

6) Trees over 15 inches in diameter

Trees over 15 inches in diameter may need increased rates of chemical. Some products available to landowners allow for higher rates of application. Consult the label for maximum application rates. Remember to always follow the label, the label is the law!

Another option for treating larger trees is to hire a tree care professional. Commercial pesticide applicators have access to chemicals that contain higher rates of active ingredients for treating large trees.