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# 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. 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 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 tree inspection and removal assistance.** An arborist can inform you about the health of the tree, what treatment options they offer and how much a 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 2 miles of a known infestation, you should decide on and implement your management plan now.**

- **If you are greater than 2 miles away, carefully inspect your trees for signs of EAB and decide on a management plan. Decide whether you want to save your trees or have them removed.**

- **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. You can protect your trees from any recently laid eggs using a soil drench or soil injection mid-Fall. Plan on applying again next spring, or switching to an injected pesticide.



Cornell University Cooperative Extension Onondaga County provides equal program and employment opportunities.
Please contact the CCE Onondaga County office if you have special needs.

- **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 are not very effective under high pest pressure.** You will need to plan on switching to tree injection application methods once EAB becomes more prevalent, if you want to save your tree indefinitely.

- **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 treatment.

  - Trees that are under stress and unhealthy may still be good candidates for insecticides. Treatments can help keep them alive over the short-term, but should be considered a temporary measure to tide you over until you can remove the tree.

  - If trees are too unhealthy for treatment to be effective, then plan on removing them tree very soon as 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 alive and 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, there is the option of doing nothing at all.

- Plan to replace your tree!

**<u>Insecticides Legal in New York State for treatment of EAB</u>**

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

Pesticide application information compiled by Mark Whitmore, Cornell University