



Protecting Your Trees From the Emerald Ash



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There is a new insect in Fairfax County — the emerald ash borer, a metallic green beetle. It only attacks ash trees, and it has killed millions of these trees in other states. **You can take steps to protect your ash trees, but it's important to act before they become infested.**

When to Protect Your Ash Tree

- **It is important to take action *before* your ash tree is attacked.** There are insecticides available for use by homeowners or tree care professionals.
- Most insecticides should be applied in May or June. Be sure to read the label for correct timing. **You will need to treat your ash every year.** This may be costly.
- You can treat your tree after it is infested, but **insecticides don't work well once 20 percent of a tree's canopy is dead.** Trees that are damaged beyond this point will need to be cut down. Before cutting them down, make sure they are on your property, not on an easement or protected land.

Can be treated with insecticides.



Insecticides can be used to treat the tree on the left because only 20 percent of its canopy is damaged.

But the tree on the right is too badly damaged for treatment with insecticides.

CAN'T be treated with insecticides.



Insecticides That Can Protect Your Ash Tree

- **If you treat your ash tree yourself, look for an insecticide that contains *imidacloprid*.** Insecticides with this chemical are available in most home and garden stores. Follow instructions and keep the insecticide out of reach of children.
- Other insecticides are available but only to tree care professionals. **If you hire professionals, make sure they are certified arborists *and* licensed to apply pesticides.**

Get more information at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/pests.htm.

For more information or to request this document in an alternate format, contact the Fairfax County Forest Pest Branch, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 518, Fairfax, Va. 22035, 703-324-5304, TTY 711.