

News You Can Use

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Emerald Ash Borer

The monster is out of the box!

In 2002, The Michigan Department of Agriculture quarantined six counties to fight the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Firewood, timber, and nursery stock were prohibited from leaving the counties.

In 2003, the quarantine was increased to 13 counties and the EAB has been positively identified in 27 locations outside the quarantine area in Michigan. In addition, it has been identified in Indiana, Ohio, Maryland, and northern Virginia. The monster is out of the box and it will be virtually impossible to stop the spread.

Here is what we have learned so far about the Emerald Ash Borer and our efforts to stop it.



Dr. Roberts

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Agrilus planipennis an exotic beetle feeding on ash trees in the phloem and outer sapwood. Adults emerge in late May through August. Females lay from 65 to 90 eggs which hatch in 7 to 10 days. Larvae chew through the bark and into the cambial region where they remain until pupation in May. Infestation is difficult to detect until dieback of canopy begins. Branches will die once they are girdled by the serpentine tunnels losing 30–50% of the canopy in year one and killing the entire tree in the second or third year. For treatment to be effective, it needs to take place in year one or as **a preventative application.**

We can fight this devastating pest

Hundreds of successful treatments to stop or prevent EAB have been done in Michigan. Here are a few examples.

Dr. David Roberts (discoverer of EAB), Extension Specialist and District Horticulture Agent at Michigan State University recounts in an article published in the August 2003 issue of *The Landsculptor* a visit he made with an arborist who treated for EAB. The trees were treated with Wedgle™ injections of Pointer™ insecticide and soil application of Imidacloprid in 2001 and only Wedgle injections of Pointer in 2002 and 2003. “I realized that with many large cankers on their trunks, **these trees should have been more than 50% declined if not dead. (But) the trees look excellent, with very full, lush canopies.** While many of the trees on the surrounding streets have either died or are in serious decline, the treated trees are thriving!”

Please visit Dr. Roberts’ website at www.msue.msu.edu/reg-se/roberts for more information.

Susan Shock of Shock Brothers Tree Care, Warren, Michigan, shares similar success

stories. “I have been delighted by the positive response of many of our customers who recognized the value in protecting their Ash trees and chose to disregard the helpless, negative attitude that was circulating throughout the news media and on the internet. Shock Brothers has completed its second year of protecting our customers’ Ash trees with Pointer, the Wedgle injection of Imidacloprid into the root flares. **I am happy to say that we have not lost any Ash trees that started on the protection program in 2002 against the Emerald Ash Borer. We treated 623 trees for one municipality alone!**”





Why is the Wedgle Direct-Inject System so effective?

ArborSystems™ Wedgle™ Direct-Inject™ System places the chemical directly into the cambium where the EAB larvae is feeding. Because there is *no drilling* into the non-conductive sapwood where chemical is lost, the Wedgle is efficient at placing all the chemical in the cambium where the insect is feeding. Another benefit of not drilling is, the tree does not have to expend precious energy healing from drill wounds.

The Wedgle offers *sustainable treatments* year after year with no compartmentalization

of the injected area. This allows the tree to expend energy to heal from insect damage—*not treatment damage* like old drilling methods inflict! To quote Dr. Alex Shigo “drilling trees makes no sense.”

The Emerald Ash Borer does not show preference to stressed vs. unstressed trees. It attacks all varieties of Ash...green, white, and black. It attacks all sizes of Ash trees often starting to lay eggs in the branches where it is feeding on the canopy.

Pointer™ Insecticide, Wedgle™ Direct-Inject™, Wedgle™ Tip, and WedgeChek™ are trademarks of ArborSystems. Wedgle™ Tip is protected by U.S. Patent #5,239,773, WedgeChek™ is protected by U.S. Patent #5,797,215

For additional information about how the ArborSystems™ Wedgle™ Direct-Inject™ System and Pointer™ Insecticide can be used to fight the Emerald Ash Borer, contact us today.