

Emerald ash borer update

Pesticides against emerald ash borer are “reasonably” safe

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) recently studied the risks of the three most commonly used chemicals against emerald ash borer. The MDA determined these chemicals (dinotefuran, emamectin benzoate and imidacloprid) were not likely to result in unreasonable risks to human health or the environment when used according to label directions. Landscapers and households in North Dakota would likely use these same chemicals.

Emerald ash borer was found in Ramsey County (St. Paul) in May 2009 and has since been found in Hennepin County (Minneapolis) and counties along the Wisconsin border.

Municipalities in Minnesota are working together to treat their ash trees as economically as possible. Injection treatments are available for around \$53 per tree; these treatments will protect a tree for two years. In contrast, the




removal of an infested tree can cost \$750 or more.

To prevent the spread of the pest, state and local agencies in Minnesota are restricting the transportation of firewood, monitoring and trapping the borer, and releasing natural enemies of the borer into infested areas.

The emerald ash borer has destroyed tens of millions of ash trees since it was introduced into the Great Lakes region in 2002.

The emerald ash borer has not been found in North Dakota and there is no reason to treat your ash trees for the pest at this time. But the borer is coming—it is just a matter of time before it arrives here. Ash trees are defenseless against the pest.

For the latest information on this pest, go to <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>. 

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