

Understanding pesticides when managing Mountain Pine Beetle infestations. (Monday 10/25/2009 12:00PM)

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Mountain Pine Beetle infestations have caused extreme losses throughout Montana's pine forests. Even homeowners across Montana are experiencing losses to mature pines in their own backyards. Homeowners should have a good understanding of pesticide options prior to rushing to the local distribution outlets to purchase products. Products which are currently recommended when managing Mountain Pine Beetle infestations include:

Sevin SL: Active ingredient is carbaryl. This general use product can be used on ornamental trees, but the product label contains a disclaimer/statement which recommends "For Commercial or Agricultural Use Only". MSU Extension *recommends* the use of Sevin SL only by licensed applicators for controlling Mountain Pine Beetle. One application of this product per season is usually sufficient on ornamental trees.

Sexin XLR: Active ingredient is carbaryl. Many individuals assume Sevin XLR can be used in ornamental (yard) settings on Mountain Pine Beetles. This is not true. This is a general use product which is not labeled for use on ornamentals (yard applications). This product also has the disclaimer/statement which recommends "For Commercial or Agricultural Use Only". Consequently, MSU Extension *recommends* the use of Sevin XLR only by licensed applicators for controlling Mountain Pine Beetle. Settings in which licensed applicators may use Sevin XLR to manage Mountain Pine Beetle include parks, tree plantations, planted Christmas trees, parks, rural shelter belts, and other agricultural areas. ***This product is not labeled for use in backyard / ornamental situations for Mountain Pine Beetle control regardless of certification.**

Onyx: This is a general use product which contains a synthetic pyrethroid as the active ingredient. This product may be used for Mountain Pine Beetle on ornamentals by commercial applicators only. Re-application may be necessary within season.

Astro: Permethrin. This is a general use product which may be used for Mountain Pine Beetle on ornamentals by licensed applicators. Non-licensed applicators cannot legally use this product for Mountain Pine Beetle management. Re-application is often necessary within the season.

Verbenone: General use product which may be used by licensed or unlicensed applicators. Re-application is generally not necessary within the same season.

Timing of application is critical when using these products to manage Mountain Pine Beetle infestations. Covering the entire trunk of mature pine trees is challenging due to their height and appropriate equipment and experience may be required. For more information on the timing of these applications, Mountain Pine Beetle life cycle, and/or biology contact Kevin Wanner (Crop Extension Entomologist; kwanner@montana.edu). Always read and follow the product label prior to use. Product labels can be obtained at www.greenbook.net.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding reading these product labels, chemical formulations or this article contact the MSU Pesticide Education Program (Cecil Tharp, (406)994-5067, ctharp@montana.edu).