

Trees

TREES DESERVE PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL INSECT PESTS

Insects will attack a stressed tree in the urban environment just as they will attack a sick or old tree in the forest, according to Dr. Dave Nielson, entomologist at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster.

"The problem," says Nielson, "is knowing when the insect population will change from harmless to destructive. It's important to identify the harmless insects as well as the harmful ones. If you don't know, call your extension agent for advice. Then apply insecticides when insects reach a harmful level."

Some of the harmful insects reaching serious populations are the gypsy moth, Japanese beetle, birch leaf miner, eastern tent caterpillar, elm leaf beetle, the spring cankerworm and the elm span worm. All of these harmful insects can be controlled with applications of Imidan® from Stauffer Chemical Company, Sevin®, malathion, diazinon, Dursban®, Orthene® or Dipel®.

"Imidan is fairly new to the arborist, but it has a successful record in the fruit growing area," says Dr. Richard Miller, extension entomologist at Ohio State University in Columbus. "It made its debut in fruit, controlling codling moth, green apple aphid, maggots and others. It is a relatively safe material and covers a pretty good range of insects for the arborist and the pesticide applicator of landscapes. One of its greatest benefits is its safety to the user as well as to beneficial insects. That's important to an up-to-date insect control program."

Insect control is a major part of tree care. Many countries around the world put a higher price on the value of trees than here in North America. In Vienna, Austria, you can be fined as much as \$25,000 if you are caught chopping down a tree that isn't yours.

Landscape architects in this country say a well-placed, mature shade tree in good condition adds more than \$1,000 to the value of a home. Studies show a thick evergreen windbreak can block out noise pollution from a busy street, hide an eyesore, and save nearly 25 percent on winter heating bills. Customers should be educated to the value of trees and ornamentals. They should be calling you to solve a problem rather than a fence company.

Once they know you'll apply insecticides only when necessary and use insecticides that are safer than others, they'll trust their valuable trees and shrubs to you for other services.

*signifies registered trademark.



Arborists and tree care companies guard 20 percent of the value of their customers' property.