



# Frequently asked questions about emerald ash borer pesticide treatment in Wisconsin municipalities

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection enforces Wisconsin's pesticide laws. Many Wisconsin municipalities are considering whether to use pesticides to treat for emerald ash borer (EAB). Below is a list of frequently asked questions about EAB pesticide treatments. If you have other questions, please contact Mike Murray, DATCP Pesticide Program Manager, at [Michael.murray@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Michael.murray@Wisconsin.gov) or 608-224-4551. For general information about EAB, visit [emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov).

## Applicator certification

### Are municipal employees required to be certified to apply EAB treatments?

Government employees applying general-use pesticides to ash trees on property the municipality owns or controls do not need to be certified or licensed. General-use pesticides are those available for purchase by the general public. (Example: Quali-Pro imidacloprid 2F, EPA Reg. No. 66222-203)

Government employees applying restricted-use pesticides on the municipality's own properties are required to be certified and licensed. Restricted-use pesticides are those the federal Environmental Protection Agency has determined have greater environmental risks and are therefore only available for use by certified applicators. (Example: Tree Age, EPA Reg. No. 100-1309-74578).

### What is the difference between certification and licensing?

“Certification” means an individual has passed a state-approved exam about pesticides and their use. The certification is good for five years. Individuals must be certified in specific categories depending on what kind of work they will do.

Additionally, a certified individual must apply for a license from the state in order to apply restricted-use pesticides or to get hired to apply general-use pesticides. The license expires annually on December 31.

Call (608) 262-7588 or visit [ipcm.wisc.edu](http://ipcm.wisc.edu) to learn about the Pesticide Applicator Training Program or to buy materials required for certification. The state does not charge a license fee for government employees.



**Which certification category are municipal employees required to have?**

Category 3.0 – Turf and Landscape. This includes all employees who do any work listed on the label, even if they are not applying the pesticide. For example, both the person drilling the holes for Tree-Äge injections and the person making the injection need to be certified. It is not sufficient for only a supervisor to be certified.

**Is it possible to research whether applicants are certified pesticide applicators before hiring them?**

Yes. Search <http://www.kellysolutions.com/WI/Applicators/index.asp>.

**Contractors, contracting and volunteers**

**What if a municipality hires a professional service to treat publicly owned ash trees?**

The business must be licensed AND employ certified and licensed applicators. Licensure applies to businesses using either general or restricted-use pesticides.

Search <http://www.kellysolutions.com/WI/Business/index.asp> for licensed pesticide businesses.

**What if private citizens contract the municipality to treat trees on private property?**

Government employees applying either general or restricted-use pesticides to ash trees on private properties under contract must be both certified and licensed. When a contract is in place, the government workers are considered as being hired to do work.

**Are volunteers required to be certified and licensed?**

Volunteers are not required to be licensed and certified to apply general-use pesticides; they are required to be licensed and certified to apply restricted-use pesticides. DATCP recommends that volunteers get certified if they regularly apply any kind of pesticides for invasive-species removal or other projects.

**Pesticide use**

**Are municipalities required to notify residents of upcoming pesticide applications using Wisconsin’s Landscape Registry?**

No. Municipalities are exempt from this requirement. Businesses hired by municipalities to treat trees on public properties would be required to use the registry. In either case, the rules about notification to registry participants exclude notification for rights-of-way and a few other locations (ATCP 29.56(7)). Although it is not a requirement, DATCP recommends municipalities planning to treat trees on publicly owned property, even in rights-of-way or other exempted areas, use the registry to notify residents. The registry is located at <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/landreg/index.jsp>.

Additionally, DATCP recommends municipalities inform the general public as much as possible about EAB treatment plans in order to reduce citizens’ concerns or fears.

Find examples of news releases and other public outreach tools in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources “EAB Toolbox” at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/UrbanForests/eab.html>.

**Are municipalities required to post application warning signs?**

Yes. State rules require at least one sign to be clearly visible at any point where people might walk onto the treated area of a landscape or school grounds. This includes entry points from roads, sidewalks, driveways and adjacent yards. Use the landscape sign when posting trees in a right-of-way. (ATCP 29.56)

**Are municipalities required to keep pesticide-application records?**



If you are using a restricted-use pesticide, you must keep records of application. You are not required to keep records of general-use pesticide applications. However, DATCP recommends municipalities keep records for general use in the same manner required for restricted use. Accurate records can help resolve citizens’ concerns or fears about pesticide use. They also can help municipalities implement a multiyear treatment program.

If your municipality contracts with a tree service, the business must provide the municipality with application records for both restricted and general-use pesticide applications.

For more information about answers in this section, refer to Wisconsin’s “Turf and Landscape Pest Control Applications: How to Comply” manual. It includes an example record-keeping form and detailed information about rule requirements. Find it at <http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Plants/pdf/TurfHowToComply.pdf>.

**The one-acre grid**

**Pesticides containing imidicloprid or dinotefuran have a limit on the amount that can be applied per acre. How does one define an urban acre?**

Some Wisconsin municipalities treating large areas find it most efficient to place a one-acre grid over the entire municipality. (See attached example.) Keep in mind that when calculating per-acre treatment rates, you may only include ash trees growing on the property you own or control. Therefore, some municipalities find it easier to measure only the areas to be treated as opposed to the entire community. The acre or multi-acre treatment area may be of any shape – long and narrow along a boulevard or wedge-shaped at an intersection. Whether you measure the entire community or just one area, you must include all land features such as pavement or water.

If you are working on an area that is smaller than an acre, you will need to prorate the application to meet the reduced annual limit. Depending on the number of ash trees in each acre, you might not be

able to treat every tree every year. Using the same acre grid each year will help you stay within the application limit.

As an example, in the village of Whitefish Bay, M&M Tree Care has the contract to treat publicly owned trees. The company uses imidicloprid and refers to an acre grid over the entire municipality. The village developed the grid. M & M refers to the same grid when hired to treat trees on private property and, when necessary, uses a product with a different active ingredient to avoid exceeding the imidicloprid limit.

### **Does emamectin benzoate have a per-acre restriction?**

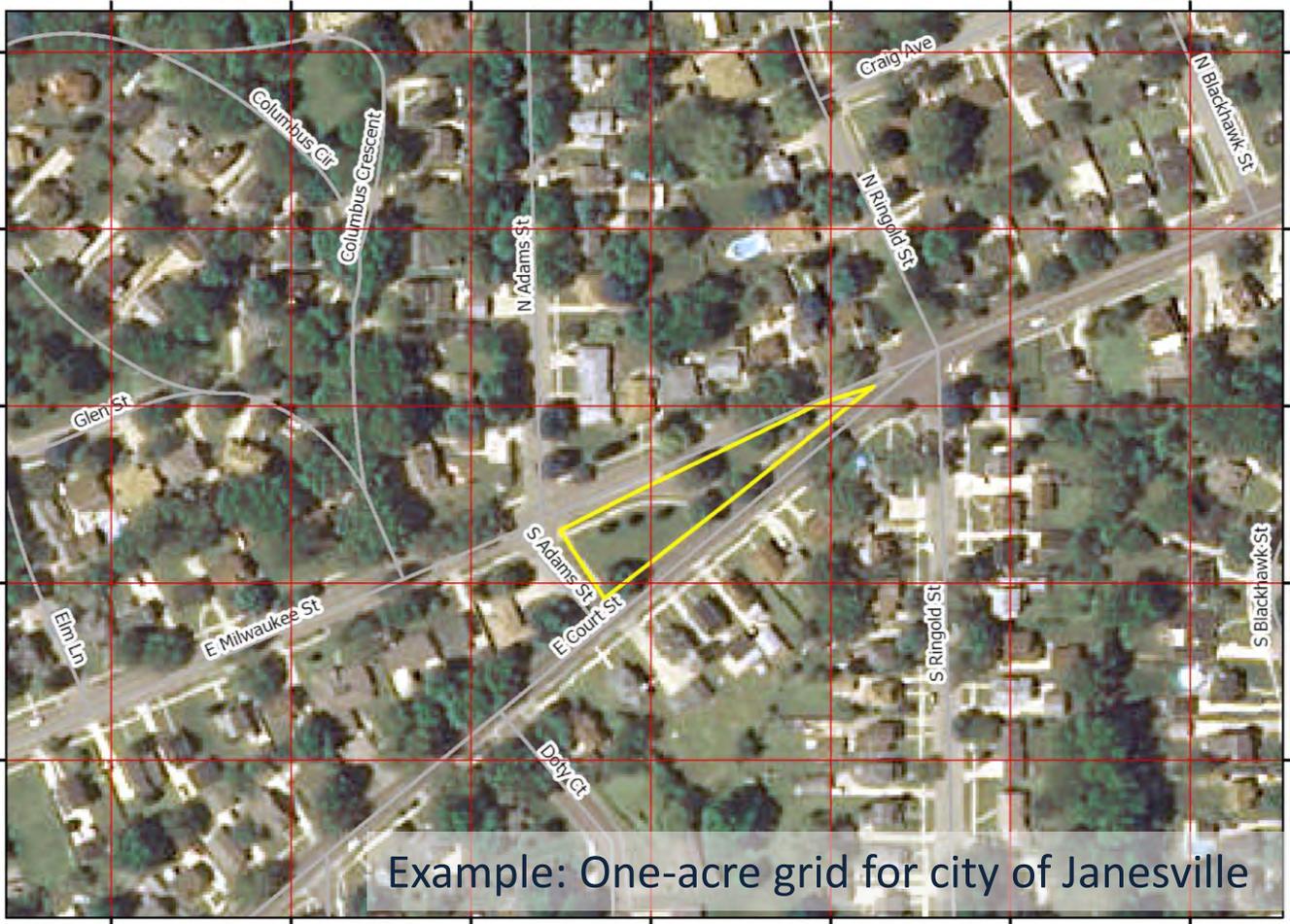
It does not. For more information about the pesticide options for treating EAB, visit [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov).

### **The final word on treatment plans:**

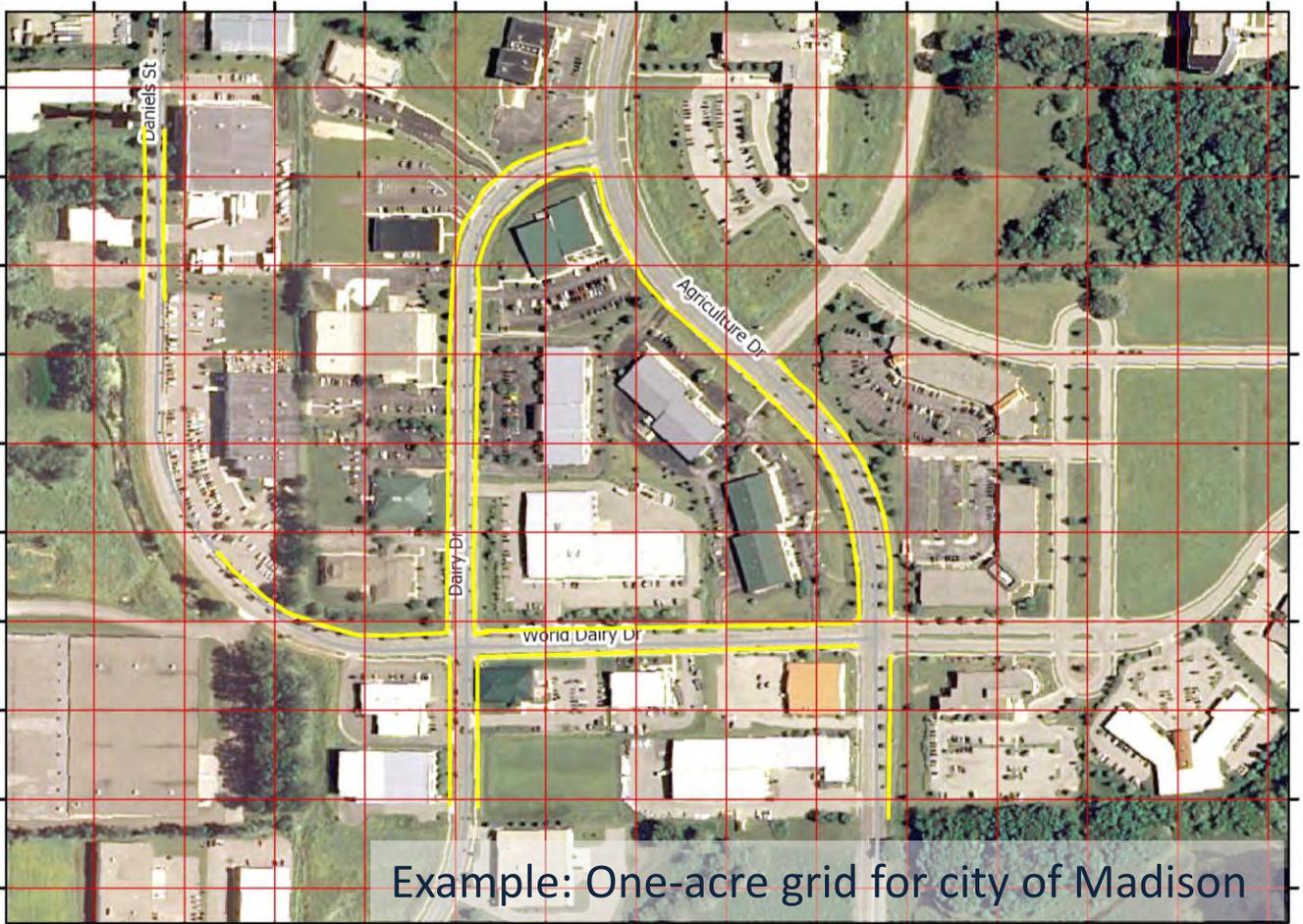
DATCP recommends you come up with a plan that fits your tree inventory, meets label requirements and that you could defend if questioned by regulators or private citizens. DATCP employees cannot help you design an EAB treatment plan, but they can review your plan to be sure it is compliant.



*If you have questions about compliance or other questions about using pesticides to treat emerald ash borers, please contact Mike Murray, DATCP Pesticide Program Manager, at [Michael.murray@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Michael.murray@Wisconsin.gov) or 608-224-4551.*



Public Property



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