

Systemic Insect Management



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A systemic treatment is preferred over topical treatments for the management of specific insects on a variety of trees and shrubs. An injection tool is used to apply product directly into the soil at the crown flare of the tree or shrub, where it is taken up by the roots and translocated through the plant's vascular system. For best results, the injection is performed during the dormant season, before insect activity begins. By Springtime, the plant will be equipped with defenses against harmful insect pests like aphids, leaf miner, adelgids, and scale. Protection remains in place for the duration of the growing season. Products are carefully selected not to interfere with beneficial organisms, like ladybugs.

This treatment requires water in order to activate. The area should remain moist for 7- 10 days to maximize product efficiency. If the area is protected from rainfall, we recommend using a soaker hose or a slow-running sprinkler on the soil around the base of the tree. Your technician will have noted if you should soak this application or if current soil moisture/rainfall is sufficient.



Hemlock woolly adelgid

Adelgids are aphid-like insects in the genus *Adelges* (family *adelgidae*) that feed mainly on conifers. Conifers are trees and shrubs that bear cones such as Pine, Spruce, Hemlock, Douglas Fir, True Fir, and many other valuable landscape and forest species. Like aphids, adelgids feed by tapping into their host plants and withdrawing plant sap. Infestations can cause branch dieback, growth deformation and in severe outbreaks even death of the host plant. Entire forests can be killed by certain adelgids such as the hemlock woolly adelgid.



Scale

Common on backyard trees, ornamental shrubs, greenhouse plants and houseplants, over 1,000 species of scale insects exist in North America. They are such oddly shaped and immobile pests that they often resemble shell-like bumps rather than insects. In many cases, heavy infestations build up unnoticed before plants begin to show damage. Large populations may result in poor growth, reduced vigor and chlorotic (yellowed) leaves. If left unchecked, an infested host may become so weak that it dies.



Aphids

An aphid is a small, soft-bodied insect that survives by sucking the sap from plants and consuming it. They can cluster thickly, depriving garden plants of the sap needed to carry nutrients through tissues, causing wilting, poor fruiting, and even plant death. Aphids also excrete honeydew, which can attract yellow jackets.



Leaf miner

A leaf miner is the larva of an insect that lives in and eats the leaf tissue of plants. The vast majority of leaf-mining insects are moths (Lepidoptera), sawflies (Symphyta, a type of wasp) and flies (Diptera), though some beetles also exhibit this behavior. Birch, Elm, Madrona and Holly are all common targets for leaf miner.