



Finding a Certified Pesticide Applicator for Emerald Ash Borer Treatment

Although Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is unable to give specific recommendations on certified applicators and licensed companies able to treat ash trees for the emerald ash borer (EAB), we can provide unbiased, general guidance on how to find certified pesticide applicators and considerations for conducting your search.

To treat ash trees for EAB in Iowa, a person must be certified with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Pesticide Bureau. Commercial pesticide applicators must have a valid and active certification in Category 3O (“O” for Ornamental Pest Control) or 3OT (“OT” for Ornamental and Turf Pest Control).

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Pesticide Bureau provides access to a database of companies with the appropriate application certifications. Each licensed company’s name, location, phone number, and applicators with specific certifications are listed when you click the company name.

To begin your search for [licensed commercial applicator](https://iowapestapplicators.secure.force.com/lookup) companies, use the following URL:
<https://iowapestapplicators.secure.force.com/lookup>

No endorsement is intended by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of companies or their products mentioned nor is criticism implied of similar companies or their products not mentioned.

Next Steps

1. Choose your search criteria by selecting the "Search by Company/License box on the left side of your screen.
2. For License Type, select '00-Commercial Applicator/ Not Aerial' from the drop-down menu.
3. To further narrow your search to your specific location, please enter or select information from the following boxes:
 - City Name
 - State
 - Zip Code
 - County
4. Click the blue 'Search' button to begin the search.
5. Review the list carefully. In the Expiration Date column, both 'Active' and 'Inactive' licensed businesses will appear. Select only businesses with 'Active' dates. If the list extends to other pages, use the blue 'Next' or 'Prev' buttons located in the bottom right corner to navigate between pages.
6. Clicking on a company license number will open a new web browser tab. In this tab you will see information for the company, as well as certified applicators for that specific company. For EAB treatments, applicators need to have an active certification in 3O (Ornamental Pest Control) or 3OT (Ornamental and Turf Pest Control).

TIP #1: Clicking on an individual applicator will open a new tab with information about that specific applicator. Under the section 'Category' it will list in which category or categories the applicator is certified to apply pesticides. The phone number listed for this applicator is the company phone number.

TIP #2: Clicking on the business license number will give you information about the business. If you would rather not search each applicator for that company, use the provided phone number to call the company and ask if they make EAB treatments.

Research Considerations

- When calling a prospective company to treat for EAB, ask and verify if the applicator is also a certified arborist. Arborists are tree professionals and can determine if the tree is a good candidate for treatment and suggest other maintenance options, such as pruning and nutrient management, to keep the tree in good condition.
- Check the International Society of Arboriculture for [ISA-certified arborists](http://isa-arbor.com) in your area, isa-arbor.com.
- Ask for references of past clients when talking with prospective companies and call these references.
- Talk with companies to find out if they have experience applying treatments that are recommended for EAB, such as trunk injection, soil injection, soil drench or basal trunk spray.
- It is a good idea to ask for bids from two or three different companies for the same type of EAB treatment.
- Professional treatments can be costly. EAB treatments must be done yearly or every other year for several years. Resources for ash trees and decision guides for EAB infestations can be found on the ISU Extension and Outreach [EAB page](http://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/emerald-ash-borer) at: hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/emerald-ash-borer.
- If your ash tree is smaller than 20-inch diameter (60-inch circumference), it is possible to treat your own ash tree(s). For treatment details, download the ISU Extension and Outreach publication, [*Emerald Ash Borer Management Options \(ENT 57\)*](http://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/13114), store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/13114.

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