THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension

Addendum to AZ1380

3/29/2021

The information provided in the publication "Using Insecticides to Prevent Bark Beetle Attacks on Conifers" https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1380.pdf is still accurate. However, a new treatment has been tested and found to be efficacious in protecting Ponderosa pines prior to bark beetle colonization.

The active ingredient (4% Emamectin Benzoate) is injected into an uncolonized tree under pressure. However, soil moisture must be present to move the material upward to the entire canopy through the tree's xylem. If sufficient soil moisture is not present, it could be enhanced by irrigation of the treated tree. To best accomplish this, a soaker hose can be used to apply irrigation to the soil at and slightly beyond the tree's dripline (vertical projection of the tree's canopy) to a depth of two feet. Irrigation of native-grown Ponderosa pine is an inexact science as roots can be as far as 3-5 times the trees height. It is recommended that systemic pesticide injections be made by a certified pesticide applicator. Again, neither this treatment nor the treatments described in AZ1380 will effectively treat previously colonized trees.