

September 2008

## Treatment of Pine Beetle-Infested Trees

### When to treat:

- Best time to look for and treat newly infested trees is in the fall through early spring (newly hit trees will still look fresh and green in fall, will start to “fade” by spring)
  - You have more treatment options in fall – if you wait until spring, start treatment no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of May!
  - There are few options for treating a pine-beetle infested tree in late May or June – it is too close to the time the beetles emerge.
- Beetles leave infested trees for new ones in July.
  - A red, dead tree does not need to be treated if you find it after August or Sept (the beetles have already left – look for small round exit holes to be sure)

### Treatment options

Beetles can live in cut-down trees – you must treat them to prevent spread. There is nothing you can do to save a tree once it is infested with beetles.

- Burn them (cut trees down in fall, cut to length and split to dry them and burn before spring)
- Chip the entire tree
- Peel the bark off
- Solar treatment with or without plastic – fall is best, start no later than May 1 (logs must be in a single layer, not a stack)
- Bury trees under 8 inches of dirt
- Bring your trees (any size material with no diameter limit) to the joint Boulder County-Larimer County wood collection site located at 8170 Hwy 7 in Larimer County (north of Meeker Park) during business hours **by September 30.**

### The hours of operation are:

Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
 Saturday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
 Closed Sunday, Monday

You can preventatively spray *a few high value* trees (not your whole forest) – spray in the spring, you must treat every year! Spraying will *not* save a tree after it has been attacked.

Further Questions? Call the CSU Extension Office at 303-582-9106

### Web sites:

- Front Range Pine Beetle Working Group: [www.FrontRangePineBeetle.org](http://www.FrontRangePineBeetle.org)
- Boulder County Forest Health: [www.BoulderCounty.org/foresthealth](http://www.BoulderCounty.org/foresthealth)
- Colorado State Forest Service: [www.csfs.colostate.edu/iandd.htm](http://www.csfs.colostate.edu/iandd.htm)
- U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Management: [www.fs.fed.us/r2/fhm/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/fhm/)
- Pine Beetle “backgrounders:” [www.barkbeetles.org/mountain/fidl2.htm](http://www.barkbeetles.org/mountain/fidl2.htm) and [www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05528.html](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05528.html)