



Save Georgia's Hemlocks

Dear Retailers,

You probably are already aware that Georgia's hemlocks are being attacked and killed by an invasive insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). Any hemlocks that become infested and are not treated will die within as few as 3 to 6 years. However, there are chemical products that have proven very effective in controlling this pest. The ones most frequently used are Imidacloprid (sold as Merit 75 and several generic versions) for lightly to moderately infested trees and Dinotefuran (sold as Safari 20 SG or Transtect 70 WSP) for heavily infested or very large infested trees 22+ inches in diameter.

In line with our efforts to help property owners save as many of their hemlocks as possible, we urge you to carry a selection of these materials in your store to make it easy for people to obtain them. Below is a partial list of the treatment products and formulations that are labeled for combating the HWA. It is meant for information purposes only, not as a product endorsement.

Imidacloprid Products

Merit 75 WSP and the following generics:

Bandit 75% WSP	Imida-E-Pro 75% WSP	Submerge 75% WSP
Criterion 75% WSP	Malice 75% WSP	TouchStone 75% WSP
Enforce 75% WSP	Mallet 75% WSP	XyTect 75% WSP
Hunter 75% WSP	QualiPro 75% WSP	Zenith 75% WSP

Dinotefuran Products

Safari 20 SG (available in 3-lb and 12-oz sizes)

Transtect 70 WSP (canister of 20 packets of 0.6 oz each)

Other Products

Other products labeled for HWA are available in various forms including liquids, wettable powders, and tablets. Some are systemic and provide a period of residual protection, depending on the active ingredient and percentage of it they contain. Others such as insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils are topical, must fall directly onto the insects to kill them, provide no residual protection, and must be repeated frequently.

However, because these alternative products are of a lower strength or have a shorter effective period or are not as cost-effective, we recommend using the Imidacloprid 75% and Dinotefuran products listed above.

Insecticide Wholesalers for the GA Market

To make it easier for retailers to help their customers dealing with the HWA problem, we've developed a partial list of wholesalers that carry HWA treatment products and sell to retailers and professionals in the Georgia market; some also sell directly to retail customers. It is meant for information purposes only, not as a company endorsement. If you know of other companies that should be added to the list, please let us know.

BWI, 800-922-8961	Regal Chemical, 800-621-5208
Grow South, 800-282-3682	Southern Agriculture, 800-627-1121
Helena Chemical Company, 770-945-0686	Toccoa Solutions, 770-630-8873
John Deere Landscapes, 770-607-3226	White County Farmers Exchange, 706-865-2831
Red River Specialties, 229-924-9459	

Comments -- Imidacloprid

With the two exceptions noted below, the minimum quantity of Imidacloprid 75 WSP that can be sold is a four-pack, which contains four packets of 1.6 ounces each. It is also sold by the case and the pallet. It is very important to offer the 1.6-ounce packaging which is labeled for treating hemlock woolly adelgids; there is also a 2.25-ounce packaging that is labeled as a termiticide, which technically would constitute an off-label use and would also bear the wrong instructions for HWA purposes.

- Exception: Bayer offers a 2-ounce bottle of Merit 75 WSP.
- Exception: It is our understanding that Bayer does not allow Bandit to be sold in less than a case. However, most consumers will not have enough total diameter inches to justify buying a case and will want to purchase Imidacloprid by the four-pack.

A four-pack of Imidacloprid 75 WSP will treat an average of 192 inches of trunk diameter. In north Georgia, the average retail price for Merit in the 2-ounce bottle is around \$60, and Merit in the four-pack is around \$120. The average retail price for a generic four-pack is between \$35 and \$50, a much more economical way to buy it.

Imidacloprid is labeled for application by soil injection, soil drench, foliar spray, or broadcast; soil injection or soil drench is generally recommended for HWA purposes. In most counties, soil injectors can be borrowed for free from either the GA Forestry Commission or the County Extension Service. Imidacloprid applied in the soil starts working immediately but takes several months to reach full strength in the tree (from 6 to 18 months depending on the trunk diameter). It gives an average protection period of 3 – 5 years.

Comments -- Dinotefuran

The minimum purchase quantity of Safari 20 SG is either a 12-oz container for around \$130 retail or a 3-pound container around \$350 retail. The minimum purchase quantity of Transtect is a canister for around \$350.

The 12-oz container of Safari will treat an average of 113 inches of trunk diameter, and the 3-pound container will treat an average of 454 inches of trunk diameter at the minimum dosing rate. A canister of Transtect 70 will treat an average of 397 diameter inches at the minimum dosing rate.

Safari and Transtect are labeled for application by soil injection, soil drench, foliar spray, broadcast, or basal trunk spray, with soil injection or basal trunk spray being generally preferred for HWA purposes. It works very quickly, gaining control over the HWA in 3 to 8 weeks, and provides a residual protection period of 1 – 2 years before retreatment is necessary. From that point, it is usually appropriate to begin an Imidacloprid treatment regimen.

Thank you for helping your customers save their hemlocks.

We would be glad to schedule a free Hemlock Help Clinic for your staff and/or customers as a way of bringing special recognition to your store and supporting your efforts to provide the highest quality customer service.

For more information, please contact the Hemlock Help LineSM 706-429-8010 or visit our web site www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org.