

# Hemlock Facts and Fiction

## Part 2: Options for Getting Hemlocks Treated

**Fiction:** Treating hemlocks is complicated and difficult, so you must hire a professional.

**Fact:** The process is neither technically complicated nor physically demanding, and many property owners choose to do it themselves; step-by-step instructions are on the [Resources](#) page of our web site. However, you might choose to hire a professional because of difficult terrain, limited physical ability or time, or personal preference; you'll find some properly licensed companies on the [Contacts](#) page of our web site.

**Fiction:** Any off-the-shelf insecticide will work for treating hemlocks.

**Fact:** First, the product must be labeled for treating adelgids. Second, even with products so labeled, many are of such low concentration (less than 1% active ingredient) that they are not very effective or for very long.

The recommended systemic products are Imidacloprid (75% water soluble powder or 21.4% liquid) for lightly to moderately infested trees and Dinotefuran (sold as Safari 20 SG) for heavy infestations. Places that carry these products are listed on our [Contacts](#) page.



**Fiction:** Insecticidal soaps or horticultural oils work just as well as systemic materials and are cheaper.

**Fact:** Non-systemic sprays kill only the exposed insects they fall directly on, so bugs still in their egg sacs, hiding on the underside of branches, or too high to reach are not affected. These products provide no residual protection and must be repeated frequently, which costs more time and money. Systemic products are much more effective and economical, giving protection for 1 – 2 years with Dinotefuran or 5 – 6 years with Imidacloprid.



**Fiction:** You need special equipment to treat hemlocks.

**Fact:** For soil application a soil injector is helpful, but if you don't have access to one, you can use a piece of rebar to make shallow holes in the soil and a bucket to dispense either of the above products. Places that lend injectors for free are on our [Contacts](#) page. If you want to spray Safari onto the lower tree trunk, a hand-pump sprayer is all you need. The tree absorbs it through the roots or bark and spreads it throughout the plant.

