

Hemlock Facts and Fiction

Part 3: Treatment Costs and Choices

Fiction: Treating hemlocks is expensive.

Fact: If you treat your own trees, the cost can be as low as \$0.04 per inch of trunk diameter using a generic Imidacloprid product for light to moderate infestation or \$0.88 per inch using Safari for heavy infestation. It does cost more to hire a professional but much less than losing your trees and having them removed.

Fiction: It's OK to hire any landscaper, arborist, or person in the tree business to treat hemlocks.

Fact: In Georgia, only persons with a pesticide contractor's license in Forest Pest Control and/or Turf & Ornamental Pest Control can legally be hired to provide this service for a fee.

They have completed the necessary technical training, know the correct treatment protocols, and have the state-required liability insurance. Some properly qualified companies are on our [Contacts](#) page, or you can call the Ga Department of Agriculture Pesticide Division.



Fiction: The brand name Imidacloprid product, Bayer's Merit 75, is better than a generic.

Fact: The generic versions are chemically equivalent and equally effective but much less expensive.

Fiction: Imidacloprid 75% water soluble powder is better than 21.4% liquid.

Fact: Don't let the 21.4% strength mislead you. When mixed with the correct amount of water, the liquid formulation yields the same concentration of active ingredient as the 75 WSP. The liquid formulation is easier to use, and if you have a lot of trees to treat, it's actually less expensive on a per-inch basis.

Fiction: Safari is better than Imidacloprid or vice versa.

Fact: One is not better than the other; they're just different. You should choose based primarily on the condition and size of a tree, and sometimes where it's growing or the weather conditions. Our Hemlock Help Line can provide advice.

Fiction: Stem injection (trying to give the tree an I.V.) is the best way to treat hemlocks.

Fact: *NO!* This method involves making holes in the trunk to place chemical in the tree's vascular system. It should be done only in extremely rare and absolutely necessary cases, and then only by a highly experienced professional. A great deal of respected research indicates that stem injection is less effective than soil application, requires more frequent application, costs much more than any other method, requires special equipment and skills, and even with the least invasive device has the potential to wound trees already under adelgid-induced stress.

