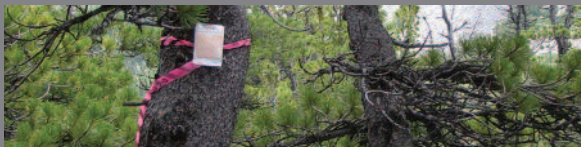


What Can You Do?

Mountain Pine Beetle



Albertans living in areas with mountain pine beetle (MPB) can take steps to reduce the impact on their property. While there is no certain prevention against MPB attack, there are some actions you can take to protect pine on your property and prevent further spread.

Learn to recognize the signs of MPB attack.

Prevent Attack/Infestation

Keep your trees healthy: MPB are more likely to attack stressed trees. Stressed trees are those that have been topped, poorly pruned, injured, root damaged or suffering from drought.

Remove, thin and diversify pine stands: You can remove or thin pine stands on your property to prevent infestations from building up. Diversifying trees to include non-pine species (native and ornamental) and trees of various age class on your property can help reduce impacts.

Do not transport MPB-infested pine with bark attached: To minimize the risk of spreading beetle to uninfested areas, debark infested pine logs prior to transport. Transport of logs and other forest products cut from coniferous trees are regulated under provincial legislation. Directives can be viewed at www.mpb.alberta.ca.

Pheromone Repellents: Verbenone is an anti-aggregation pheromone used to prevent attacks on healthy pine trees. Verbenone is a naturally occurring chemical that mimics a heavily infested tree. As a consequence, beetles may avoid attacking trees treated with this chemical. Verbenone is specific to MPB and is not a pesticide.

If your trees are attacked, it is extremely important to initiate control action on infested trees prior to mid-June, when mature beetles begin to emerge and fly to new sites.

Replanting pine in Alberta is acceptable; in fact, there are many areas where soil and environmental conditions support the growth of pine. Replanted pine trees will not be susceptible to attack for many years.

To assist residents replanting trees killed by MPB on their property, residents can apply to the TreeCanada Alberta MPB ReLeaf Program for funds to purchase trees. For more information on this program visit www.TreeCanada.ca.

These activities are potentially dangerous and are not guaranteed to prevent or stop an attack. Consult a local tree professional in your area for advice.

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