

Control of Infested Trees

Mountain Pine Beetle



Private Landowners

The mountain pine beetle (MPB) infestation impacts provincial forests, private and municipal lands. The Government of Alberta does not control trees on private or municipal lands.

If your tree has been attacked, you have until June of the next year to treat your trees. Effective treatment requires all life stages of the beetle are destroyed.

Treatment options include:

Peel standing – using a knife or other sharp tool, remove the outer bark to fully expose adult and larval galleries. Adults must be destroyed. Eggs, larvae and pupae will dry out once they are exposed to air. This treatment is only recommended for trees having less than 40 attacks and where all attacks can be reached.

Whole Tree Peeling – Remove all the bark from the affected area of the tree and burn the bark to ensure all life stages of beetles are destroyed. Ensure you peel one metre above last visible attack. This treatment can be done with the tree standing or with it felled.



Fall and Burn - Fall the infested tree and buck it into manageable pieces, cutting one metre above last visible attack. Burn pieces until all bark has been completely burned off. Complete burning of wood pieces is not required.

Remove and burn bark from any stumps greater than 15 cm in height.

If trees are felled and not controlled, beetles will complete their development and fly the next year.

For more information on how to obtain necessary permits, please contact your local Environment and Sustainable Resource Development office.

If you intend to use the tree for firewood, peel it, burn the bark and the remaining wood can be used as firewood the following year.



If a tree was attacked two or more years ago, there will be no developing brood within the tree and it does not require control treatment. There is no need to remove uninfested trees.

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.

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