

Elm seed bug_statewide

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The elm seed bug is a new pest that was recently discovered in Montana in November of 2016. The identification of the bug was confirmed in June of 2017. It has now been discovered in the following counties with several reports in homes: Ravalli, Sanders, Missoula, Broadwater, Lewis and Clark, and Yellowstone.



Figure 1. Elm seed bug adult. Photo by Chris Cable.

Although it is known to feed on elm leaves, it is not known to do much damage, to date, on elm trees in Montana. It is a nuisance home invader, coming into our homes by the dozens and residing on the south and southwest facing outside walls. They are not harmful to humans, although one client has reported bites.

For management, vacuum up all insects coming into the home. Seal all cracks, crevices, and entrances into the home. You can also use sticky traps to capture them. Perimeter sprays on the foundation can also help, particularly on south and south-facing outside walls. Some of the active ingredients include bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, permethrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, carbaryl, and malathion.

Disclaimer:

These recommendations are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. Due to constantly changing labels and product registration, some of the recommendations given in this writing may no longer be legal by the time you read them. If any information in these recommendations disagrees with the label, the recommendation must be disregarded. No endorsement is intended for products mentioned.