Description of Basal-Bark-Spray Tree Treatment

The treatments outlined in the Penn State documents—particularly the treatments using the systemic insecticides Dinotefuran and Imidacloprid as Basal Bark Sprays—are the most effective remedies Penn State recommends. Properly treated, trees will become toxic to SLF in a few days to a few weeks. The trees will then remain toxic for a year or more. SLF who feed on these trees will quickly die. A proper, to-the-instructions application of these insecticides will often prevent or avoid the difficulty of tree removal.

The application of Dinotefuran or Imidacloprid as a basal bark spray is a systemic method of long-term control of SLF on individual trees—particularly on those trees which cannot be removed this season. In addition, the Basal-Bark-Spray method of application, allows one to treat just the first 5-6 feet of the trunk of the tree—thus avoiding complicated and expensive treatments to the entire foliage of the tree.

Over a longer period however, in addition to using insecticides, the removal and herbicidal treatment of Ailanthus trees, where these trees exist, is essential for area control of SLF.