



## **IPM: When to pull out the pesticides**

Here are some plants I have insect problems with:

- Rhododendrons and yews with black vine weevil
- Roses, and many other plants to a lesser degree, with Japanese beetles
- Magnolias with magnolia scale
- Deciduous azaleas and baptisia australis, with Green Canker worms, an insidious small green caterpillar that can defoliate the plant in 24-48 hours

I like to manage landscapes pesticide free as much as possible. This is to encourage butterflies, hummingbirds, honeybees and other beneficial bees, and the larval form of butterflies and moths. But sometimes I reach my "Action Threshold", and I have to act!

Systemic pesticide spray, very judiciously used, has been a tool in my toolbox for a long time. There is some instant killing action, but the systemic part is when it's drawn up into the plant to work its wiles on only the critters eating or affecting the plant.

There is a new Sheriff in town, however: Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub Insect Control. I prefer the granular application. It's pricey, around \$50.00 for 10 lbs, but the payoff is one to two months after application - it needs time to be absorbed by the plant - nasty insects stay away! The label promises one year protection, but I'm enjoying my third year of magnolia scale free magnolia trees. You can find this product in most big box stores.



**Bill Ten Eyck**

**Christensen's Plant Center**  
**6282 Gotfredson Road**  
**Plymouth, Michigan 48170**

(734) 454-1400 voice

(734) 454-1414 fax

[\*\*\*Return to Archive\*\*\*](#)

