



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Protecting Evergreens *The Mountain Pine Beetle Moves into the Front Range*

Every spring the Highlands Ranch Metro District forestry crew heads out to the parks and parkways in the community to spray all pine and spruce trees – about 15,000 trees. They are protecting trees from infestation by the Ips Bark Beetle and Zimmerman Pine Moth. What's different this year is the forestry crew is also protecting pine and spruce trees from the Mountain Pine Beetle.

The Mountain Pine Beetle has attacked tens of thousands of trees in Colorado's high country. In 2008, many northern Colorado communities reported their first cases of Mountain Pine Beetle attacks on local trees. Experts believe the move of the Mountain Pine Beetle into the Front Range is due to a strong wind event that carried the beetles east into local communities.

So far, trees in Highlands Ranch have not been attacked by the Mountain Pine Beetle. To continue on the same path, it is prudent to take the proper protection measures. As area trees are attacked the trees will likely deteriorate and eventually die.

Proper watering, injury prevention and proper planting techniques all increase a tree's chances of survival. If trees have not been infested, preventative chemical applications in late spring to early summer can be effective against the beetles.

"Residents whose landscape contains pine or spruce trees may want to consider spraying their trees to protect them from insect attacks," said Dennis Donovan, Metro District forestry supervisor. "We hope the Mountain Pine Beetle does not move into Highlands Ranch but if it does it makes sense to be prepared and to protect trees that are most susceptible to attack."

As a homeowner, you can call a tree company and have a certified tree care specialist evaluate the health of your trees. If you choose to have your trees sprayed, the Metro District recommends you look for a company with licensed pesticide applicators.

Founded in 1981 as the local government in Highlands Ranch, Colo., the Metro District provides a variety of municipal services to this planned community of 93,000 people. Learn more about the Metro District at www.highlandsranch.org

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