

Update on Verbenone and MCH Tree Protection Packets

Dear Mt. Princeton HOA Homeowners,

Following our discussion at the Annual Meeting regarding Verbenone and MCH pheromone packets for tree protection, I wanted to provide an update on what we have learned through conversations with local forestry professionals and the Colorado State Forest Service.

According to JT Shaver with the Colorado State Forest Service, the ideal time to install these packets is during May and June, prior to bark beetle flight activity. Unfortunately, the beetles are already in flight this season, so the window for maximum effectiveness has largely passed for 2026.

The Colorado State Forest Service continues to recommend:

- Verbenone packets for protecting high-value Ponderosa and Lodgepole Pine trees from Mountain Pine Beetles.
- MCH packets for protecting Douglas-fir trees from Douglas-fir Beetles.

JT also recommended placing orders in February 2027, before the high-demand ordering period that typically occurs during April and May. He indicated that the packets can be stored under refrigeration until they are installed on trees in late spring.

Another option homeowners may wish to consider is annual preventative spraying of high-value trees by one of the tree service companies operating in the Arkansas Valley. This is something Vicki and I have done on our property for several years with good results.

As a next step, MPHOA plans to reach out to homeowners in January 2027 to gauge interest in a possible bulk purchase of Verbenone and/or MCH packets for the 2027 season. If you think you may be interested, it would be helpful to begin identifying the number and type of trees on your property that you would like to protect.

In the meantime, I will continue researching suppliers and bulk pricing so that homeowners can make informed decisions next winter.

Thank you for your interest in helping maintain the health of our forests and the beauty of our mountain community.

Kevin St. Croix
MPHOA Fire Mitigation Chair