

## Solar Treatment for Mountain Pine Beetle

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Solar treatment may be appropriate in some areas of Colorado to reduce beetle populations in infested trees. This treatment may be carried out with a small number of logs in high value areas. There are two options of solar treatment: with plastic sheeting, and without plastic.



Logs	<p>Clearly identify infested trees with larva</p> <p>Cut trees to 4 ft. logs (remove branches)</p> <p>Make group of 5-7 logs, 1-layer deep. <b>Do not stack!</b></p>	
Start date	Early spring (mid-April, early May)	
Duration	At least 8 weeks	
Location	<p>Southern exposure</p> <p>Open, sunny area with many hours of direct sunlight</p>	
Temperature	Logs need to reach temperatures of 110°F or more	
Plastic	6-mil clear plastic	No
Prep.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water logs previous to covering</li> <li>Seal edges with dirt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rotate logs</li> <li>Every 3 weeks rotate 1/3 of a turn</li> </ul>
Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic disposal</li> <li>Ants may nest inside plastic</li> <li>Logs may not reach 110°F</li> <li>Insects can chew through plastic</li> <li>Plastic may rip, repair with duct tape</li> <li>In lodgepole forests it may be difficult to find open areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rotation</li> <li>Logs may not reach 110°F</li> <li>In lodgepole forests it may be difficult to find open areas</li> </ul>



Solar treating mountain pine beetle infested logs (with and without plastic).  
Treatment should be started by early-mid May!