

BEETLE BLITZ 2026

Protect Your Trees From the Mountain Pine Beetle

A guide to Verbenone pheromone packets — a proven, easy-to-use defense you hang directly on your trees.

293

ACRES AFFECTED IN 2020

5,600+

ACRES AFFECTED IN 2024

Up to 80%

INFESTATION REDUCTION

⚠️ 2026 Risk is Elevated: Heavy drought this past winter combined with warmer temperatures means a potentially severe beetle season ahead. Order now to be ready.

— OVERVIEW

The Mountain Pine Beetle Continues to Expand

The Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) epidemic continues to grow at a very rapid rate here in Colorado — growing from 293 acres affected in 2020 to over 5,600 acres in 2024. One of the available defenses is the use of pheromone packets that you attach to your trees. While this is not a 100% solution, it can effectively help reduce beetle infestations on your property by up to 80%.

— HOW IT WORKS

What is Verbenone?

Verbenone isn't a contact insecticide — it's a behavioral signal. You're creating a continuous "no-entry" cloud around your trees. If spacing is too wide, beetles slip through the gaps and attack unprotected trees. That's why foresters always emphasize:

- ▶ Overlap the odor fields between packets
- ▶ Tighten spacing when pressure is high
- ▶ Use more packets on edges, openings, and wind-exposed slopes

— CALCULATING YOUR ORDER

How Many Packets Do I Need?

Start by deciding what you're protecting, then use the table below.

▶ **Protecting specific trees:**

Count the pine trees you want to protect. Plan for 1–2 packets per tree depending on pressure.

▶ **Treating a stand:**

Estimate your acres of pine. Plan for 30–60 packets per acre depending on pressure.

Product	Size	Protection Radius	Normal Pressure	High Pressure	Field Life
XL Pouch	7.84 g	12–15 ft	1 per tree or 30–40 per acre	2 per tree or 40–60 per acre	120–150 days
Regular Pouch	5.88 g	10–15 ft	1 per tree or 30–40 per acre	2 per tree or 40–60 per acre	90–120 days

⚠ **Is Your Property High Pressure?**

Answer "yes" to two or more of these and treat as high pressure:

▶ Are beetles active within a few hundred feet of your property?

▶ Are your trees large, dense, or showing drought stress?

▶ Are you on an exposed slope or at the edge of a tree stand?

▶ Has your area had recent beetle activity or drought?

High pressure also includes stands with:

▶ Dense lodgepole or ponderosa pine

▶ Large-diameter trees (10" at chest height)

▶ Even-aged, uniform canopies

▶ Trees stressed from drought, root damage, or compaction

These stands are "beetle magnets" — even if you haven't seen attacks yet.

— TIMING

When Do I Hang the Packets?

Apply before beetles begin flying in early July. Work backwards from that date based on your elevation:

Early June

Below 7,500 ft elevation

Mid June

Above 7,500 ft elevation

This ensures full release strength by early July, well ahead of beetle emergence.

— INSTALLATION

How Do I Install the Packets?

Installation is simple — no tools, no mixing, no protective gear required.

- 1 Install on **healthy pine trees only** — not fir trees, and not trees already infested.
- 2 Attach each packet **5-7 feet above the ground** on the trunk.
- 3 Place on the **shady side of the tree** — north or northeast facing.
- 4 **Do not puncture the packet.** Staple, pin, or tie it directly to the bark surface.
- 5 Space packets **20-25 feet apart**, or 15-20 feet in high-pressure areas. Overlap coverage on edges and wind-exposed slopes.
- 6 Install **before early July** so packets are fully active when beetles begin flying.

— STORAGE

How Do I Store Extra Packets?



When stored **sealed and refrigerated or frozen**, Verbenone packets degrade very slowly — typically losing only a small amount of potency over a full year. Store extras in your freezer and they'll be ready for next season.



Packs of 10 — Minimum Order

Pheromone packets are manufactured and sold in bundles of 10. The minimum order is one pack of 10, and all orders must be placed in increments of 10. Use the guide above to calculate how many packs you need.