

## SHERRILLTREE SPOTLIGHT: PREVENTING ACORNS AND GUMBALLS

Many homeowners are frustrated every year by their trees dropping nuts or fruit on the lawns. When trees are stressed, they can drop thousands of acorns, causing a huge nuisance. The same is true for gumballs and walnuts. Most people have no idea that products even exist that can solve this problem. Instead of jumping to drastic measures such as removing the tree, homeowners can treat the tree with a deflowering agent, which aborts seed production if applied at the right time. The product is called **Snipper**, and will drastically reduce the number of acorns, gumballs, or other fruits falling from your trees.

**Snipper** is applied using a microinjection capsule, which are sold in boxes of 25. To apply you simply drill a hole into the base of the tree, and push the capsule in. Capsules are placed one every four inches around the circumference of the tree. The chemicals will be injected directly into the xylem of the tree, allowing them to be taken up into all of the trees tissues. If done at the right time, this will kill emerging flowers, preventing them from being pollinated and creating fruit. This action has no negative effect on foliage or overall tree health.

An application of **Snipper** in early spring when flowers are budding can drastically reduce acorns, gumballs, nuts and fruit. This can be applied to: Ash, Black Locust, Black Walnut, Cherry, Cottonwood, Crabapple, Ginkgo, Hackberry, Hickory, Honey Locust, Maple, Oak, Olive, Persimmon, Plum, Tree of Heaven, Sweet Gum, and Sycamore trees.

The most important thing about applying **Snipper** is the timing. It has to be injected into the tree when flowers are budding, but not after they are fully formed and being pollinated. If the product is applied before flowers have budded, there will be no effect, and if it is applied after flowers are pollinated, it will be too late. A close eye has to be kept on the tree to realize exactly when the flowers are starting to bloom. **Snipper** should be stocked before it is needed; if you wait until you see flowers to order it, it will arrive too late.

### General Instructions (**Read Entire Label**):

- Apply only during flowering period.
- Use one 5 mL Snipper microinjection unit for each 4" of tree trunk circumference.
- Unless otherwise noted, microinjection units should be installed in the stem and root flares near the ground line (i.e., 2.0-8.0" from the soil surface).
- Microinjection units containing Snipper may require up to several minutes or more to empty depending on the health of the treated tree and local weather conditions.
- Remove with caution. Never assume that microinjection units have depressurized completely because they appear nearly empty or empty
- Do not leave capsules uncovered and unattended. They look like toys or food to children and animals.

\*Note: Snipper has been observed to be between 75-95% effective preventing acorns, nuts and other fruits except for gumballs. Due to the nature of Sweetgum Tree reproduction, which is multiple waves of flowers, with very little uniformity, Snipper needs to be applied multiple times per tree, and even then the effectiveness is much lower than in other trees. Effectiveness of preventing gumballs depends entirely on timing of application.