

## **Dealing with the hackberry aphid.**

- Imidacloprid applied as soil drench to the area immediately around the trunk.
- Not closely associated with colony collapse disorder of the European honeybee.
- Some evidence of harm to native bee species.
- Minimize exposure and use only as needed.
- Hackberry is wind-pollinated, so exposure of pollinator bees to the flowers is minimized.
- flowers for a brief period during late winter or early spring.
- Takes 30 days or so to fully distribute in the tree (1' a day). In the tree for full growing season.
- Applied early, least likely to enter the flowers.
- Imidacloprid is harmful to soil organisms at the point of application.
- Avoid applying where roots of flowering plants can take it up.
- No organic alternatives. The aphid is considered a 'nuisance pest' and doesn't appear to weaken the trees. Beneficial insects do feed on the aphid, but not in sufficient numbers to reduce mess.