



Nursery

Bronze Birch Borer

Pest Fact Sheet **12**

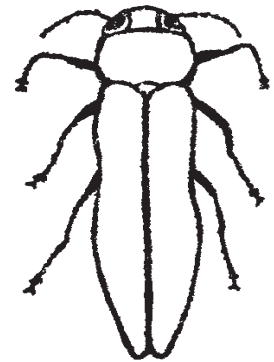
Introduction

The Bronze Birch Borer (*Agrilus anxius* Gory) is found throughout the birch range in the US and Canada. It attacks and breeds in Paper Birch, Yellow Birch, Gray Birch, Western Birch, Water Birch, Sweet Birch, and has been found in stands of beech and aspen. Paper and Yellow Birch are the preferred hosts.

Description

The larvae of the Bronze Birch Borer are slender, flattened, and have two small spines at the end of the abdomen. They are about 25mm long.

The adults are a deep olive green to bronze in color. The segment behind the head is a copper color and the head is greenish in males and copper in females. They range from 3/8" to 1/2" in length.



Life cycle

In New Hampshire, it takes two years for the Bronze Birch Borer to complete development. Adults begin to emerge in late May and early June and can be found emerging until August. After emerging, the adults feed on the leaves for about three weeks. After feeding, they mate and the female deposits her eggs singly or in groups in cracks and crevices in the bark usually on the unshaded areas of tree. Upon hatching, in two weeks, the larvae bore through the bark and into the wood, forming galleries where they will spend the following winter, spring, summer, fall and a second winter, before emerging as adults the second spring.

Larval feeding interferes with sap movement within the tree. If the bark is removed, oblong galleries can be found. Key diagnostic features are the swollen galleries spiraling around the tree bole or branches, and a thin crown. Once a tree is heavily infested with borers, it has little chance of survival. Bronze Birch Borers usually attack weakened trees.

Control

The best means of control is prevention. Proper maintenance of a birch stand by pruning, and watering will keep a birch stand vigorous and is the best line of defense.

A trunk and branch application of an appropriate pesticide in early June, July and August will control adults.

Consult your county Extension Educator (see county office telephone listing on reverse side) for specific pesticide recommendations.

Summary

Damaging stage	Larva - woodborer
Damage symptoms:	Lumpy bark; crown dieback
Plant part attacked:	Sapwood
Overwintering stage	Larva
Number of generations per year	One every <i>two</i> years
Time of year when damage is done	May, June, July
Number of pesticide applications per year	1 - 3

UNH Cooperative Extension County Office Telephone Numbers

Belknap (603) 527-5475	Carroll (603) 539-3331	Cheshire (603) 352-4550	Coos (603) 788-4961	Grafton (603) 787-6944
Hillsborough Goffstown (603) 641-6060	Merrimack (603) 796-2151	Rockingham Brentwood, NH 03833 (603) 679-5616	Strafford (603) 749-4445	Sullivan (603) 863-9200

Stop! It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. If unsure of registration status of a particular pesticide product, contact the NH Division of Pesticide Control at (603) 271-3550. Store pesticides in their original containers in a locked cabinet or shed away from food. Dispose of unused pesticides or empty containers safely, according to NH regulations. If you suspect pesticide poisoning, call the New Hampshire Poison Control Center at 1-800-562-8236.



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