



# Stone Fruit IPM for Beginners

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## Chapter 26

### Peachtree borer

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#### Peachtree borer

*Synanthedon exitiosa* (Say)

#### Hosts



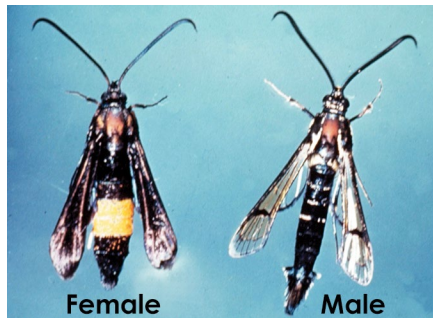
Peachtree borers attack all stone fruits, but can be a major pest of peach. They are found throughout most fruit-growing states and provinces in eastern North America.

#### Time of concern

In its northern range, there is only one generation per year. Adult emergence begins in early July, peaking in August and extending into September. Control programs for the peachtree borer in peach orchards must begin in the first year trees are planted and maintained throughout the life of the orchard.

#### Damage, symptoms and pest cycle

Adults are clear-wing, day-flying moths that may be mistaken for wasps. Their bodies are dark steel-blue with females having a wide band of bright orange scales on their abdomen and males having four narrow bands or fringes of white or yellow scales. Both sexes will have an amber sheen to their fringed wings and have a tuft of pale-colored hair between their antennae.



Female

Male

NRAES-75

Larvae are white or cream-colored and hairless with short legs and a yellowish brown to dark brown head.



NVAES

The larva burrows into the bark, usually near the soil surface, and feeds on the cambium and tunnels between the inner bark and the sapwood. Larvae normally attack the tree trunk between 7.5 cm (3 in)

below ground to 25 cm (10 in) above ground. Larger roots often have masses of gum mixed with frass exuding from the bark. Young trees may be completely girdled and eventually die; older trees are debilitated and more susceptible to other insects or diseases.



NVAES

Since the peachtree borer and the lesser peachtree borer (*S. pictipes*) often occur together, it is important to note their major distinguishing features. The male peachtree borer can be mistaken for either male or female lesser peachtree borers, except for the location of tufts of pale hair on their heads. In the peachtree borer, the pale hairs will be between the antennae. In the lesser peachtree borer, they are found in back of the eyes.

These two borers also can be distinguished by the fact that the peachtree borer is active later in the season and most often burrows under bark at or near ground level. The lesser peachtree borer is active earlier in the season, requires already injured trees and infests higher up on the trunks and in lower branches.

#### IPM steps for beginners

Examine the bases of trees for frass or sawdust-like excrement in the exuded gum. Use pheromone traps to monitor species presence and flight activity. Pheromones used to monitor for peachtree borer are not species-specific and will attract other clear-wing moths including dogwood borer and lilac borer. The lesser peachtree borer has a species-specific pheromone and will not be attracted to the peachtree borer lure. Mating disruption is an effective option in multi-acre plantings; also, summer or post-harvest trunk sprays of contact insecticides can be applied.

**Acknowledgements:** This information was adapted with permission from "Tree Fruit Field Guide," NRAES, Cornell University.