

## Tree Borers



*Young Borer Larva eating tree bark*

### What are Tree Borers?

Tree borers are a group of insects that lay their eggs on or inside of trees, where the young larvae eat their way through living tissues. These miscreants can be either beetles or clearwing moths, but the end result is the same. Tree borer insects cause affected parts of trees to slowly weaken as their chewing severs vital transport tissues. Over time, they may girdle trees or weaken branches to the point that they break under pressure. The most obvious signs of tree borer insects are the tiny holes they cut into trunks, branches and stems. These holes may be perfectly round or slightly oblong, sometimes a sawdust-like material, called frass, falls on branches below these holes or forms a long cylinder as tree borer insects excavate tunnels.

### Signs of an infestation:

- Excess sap on tree bark
- Small exit holes in tree bark
- Declining plant health



### What's the Solution?

Treatment for tree borers can be difficult if adults are already present and laying eggs throughout the tree. Trees with many holes bored through the trunk are often easier to replace than to successfully treat, since the internal damage can be extensive after just a few seasons. Prevention is key if your trees are unaffected, but tree borer insects are active nearby. Trees that are not infested, or have only a few noticeable holes, may be protected from borers by improving care. It may seem too easy, but borers are attracted to trees that are stressed and injured; pruning wounds are a common entry point for the first generation of invading borers. Adding mulch around your tree and providing it with supplemental water and fertilizer will help it fight off borers and heal from previous damage.

Prevention - Spraying a chemical control compound to prevent borer infestation is the best way to protect your trees.

Tree Health Care - A program where your trees are inspected regularly will decrease your chances of having issues. Borers are attracted to stressed trees.

Replacement - Removing infested trees will prevent the Borers from spreading.



*Adult Borer with hand for scale*

### Center Cut has Spray Division!

Landscape companies like Center Cut can help! With an in-house spray division, Center Cut can handle all your borer treatment needs at an affordable rate.

- Routine Arbor inspections with monthly maintenance
- Two certified Arborists on staff
- Certified Spray Technician
- Over 30 years experience in Commercial & HOA Landscape
- Leaders in Landscape maintenance and care