



# *IPM of Clearwing Borers*

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Integrated pest management (IPM) of clearwing borer moths (Family Sesiidae) is based on the following control strategies:

\* *Maintaining plant vitality* - A year-round maintenance program including fertilization, pruning, watering, and mulching will help trees and shrubs resist borer attack. Control of other insects (such as scales and caterpillars), mites, and diseases will also help maintain plant resistance.

\* *Using pheromone traps to monitor moth emergence* - This allows the species in the area to be identified and the correct period of control to be accurately determined for that area. The table and figures in this report will provide a guide for clearwing borer monitoring.??

\* *Applications of preventive treatments* - Clearwing borers must be controlled before they enter a plant, so correctly timed preventive sprays are essential to protect susceptible trees and shrubs. The use of the correct treatment and thorough coverage of all bark surfaces are important factors in prevention. The eggs and young

caterpillars (before they enter the tree) are the stages control is directed towards.

## **USE OF PHEROMONE TRAPS**

These traps use a tiny amount of a perfume-like sex lure to attract and capture the male moths. Since only the males are attracted, there is no risk of increased borer damage near traps.

Hang the traps in convenient locations above the reach of children and dogs. Where timing is critical, check the traps at least twice a week, carefully removing all borers (a few drops of gasoline or charcoal starter will loosen the sticky material). Where a specific borer, such as the dogwood borer, is the main problem, check the table for predicted flight period of the target species.

## **TIMING PREVENTIVE SPRAYS**

Ten days after the first male borer is captured, spray the plants susceptible to attack by that species. Most of the borers have short periods of activity and can be controlled with one spray. However, note that the peachtree and lesser peachtree borers require several sprays for complete control.

Figure 1. Common clearwing borer pests of trees and shrubs. a) Peachtree borer (*Synanthedon exitosa*); b) Lesser peachtree borer (*S. pictipes*); c) Dogwood borer (*S. scitula*); d) Oak borer (*Paranthrene* spp.); e) Rhododendron borer (*S. rhododendri*); f) Banded-ash clearwing (*Podesesia aureocincta*); g) Lilac borer (*P. syringae*).



**A) Peach Borer**



**C) Dogwood Borer**



**E) Rhododendron Borer**



**G) Lilac Borer**