



Pitch Mass Borer

(Vespamima pini)

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The preferred host of this species is white pine, but it also attacks Austrian pine, Scotch pine, and spruces. Larvae bore in the inner bark and sapwood, excavating transverse tunnels, and causing copious flows of resin (pitch). This pitch accumulates in masses three to four inches

in diameter at the entrance hole. Although not a killer of trees, this species weakens shade trees when repeated attacks occur year after year. The life cycle requires two to three years. The adult moth is blue-black (wingspread twenty-five to thirty mm), with an orange band on the abdomen.

Table 1. Identification and Control of Clearwing Borers

Borer Species	Principal Hosts	Flight Period *	No. of Sprays	Identification of Males
Peachtree Borer (<i>Synanthedon exitiosa</i>)	Flowering cherry, peach, other <i>Prunus</i> spp. - under bark at or below ground level (younger trees are preferred).	June 1 to August 29	Two, at 30 day intervals	Body length; 5/8-3/4" Metallic-black body. Thorax with yellow bands on abdomen. Wings clear with black veins
Lesser Peachtree Borer (<i>Synanthedon pictipes</i>)	Flowering cherry, peach, other <i>Prunus</i> spp. - under bark of trunk and branches, (older, weak trees are preferred).	May 1 to September 1	Three, at 30 day intervals	Body length; 1/2-5/8" Closely resembles the peachtree borer, but is smaller. <u>Note:</u> This species is not normally attracted to the same traps
Lilac Borer (<i>Podosesia syringae</i>)	Lilac, ash, and privet. Young larvae feed under bark and older larvae bore into heartwood.	April 26 to June 25	One	Body length: 5/8-3/4" Looks similar to a paper wasp (<i>Polistes</i>) Dark brown body. Red marks on thorax and abdomen. Dark wings. Orange and black legs
Banded-ash Clearwing Borer (<i>Podosesia aureocincta</i>)	Ash. Larvae tunnel in the bole and limbs of <i>Fraxinus</i> spp. From the ground level to several meters.	August 10 to September 16	One	Body length: 5/8-3/4". Similar to lilac borer except for narrow yellow band on the abdomen

Borer Species	Principal Hosts	Flight Period *	No. of Sprays	Identification of Males
Oak Borer (<i>Paranthrene simulans</i>)	Most oaks, particularly mature red oak and young pin oak	May 18 to June 11	One	Body length: 5/8-7/8" Looks identical to a yellowjacket wasp (<i>Vespa spp.</i>). Black and yellow body. Wings clear with areas of brown. Antennae black with brown tips
Rhododendron Borer (<i>Synanthedon rhododendri</i>)	Rhododendron in full sun are preferred; occasionally found in mountain-laurel and deciduous azaleas	May 30 to July 4	One	Body length: 3/8-1/2" Black body. Three yellow bands on abdomen. Legs yellow and black
Dogwood Borer (<i>Synanthedon scitula</i>)	Dogwood, pecan, apple, hickory, cherry, and others	May 21 to June 30 (emergence from dogwood)	One	Body length: 3/8-1/2" Black body. Two yellow bands on abdomen. Legs yellow and black

* Flight period is based on trapping in Lexington, Kentucky