

Flatheaded or Metallic Wood Borers



WHAT:

At least 330 species of flatheaded or metallic wood borers occur in California. Adults have a flattened appearance, and depending on species they can be a dull gray or dark color, or metallic green, blue or copper. Adults lay eggs in crevices of bark, and the important damage is caused by feeding larvae, which are oblong.



Western cedar borer

WHERE:

Bronze birch borer affects only birch; Flatheaded alder borer attacks alder, especially drought stressed white alder; Flatheaded appletree borer prefer maple, apple and poplar, but can also infest fruit, nut and other broadleaved trees; Goldspotted oak borer infests only oak, and in California black oak, coast live oak and interior live oak; Oak twig girdler attacks oaks; Western cedar borer attacks cedars; and Pacific flatheaded borer attacks a range exceeding 70 species.



Adult bronze birch borer emerging

SYMPTOMS:

Wet spots and cracked bark. Bark where larvae are feeding will continuously roughen. Beneath the bark layer galleries packed with frass (excrement) can be found. Most frass can be beneath bark layers, though occasionally it can be visible.



Goldspotted oak borer: larva, adult, damage and how the bug was introduced (firewood)

HOW:

The cultural environment should be reviewed and adjusted while prized or otherwise valued trees in any landscape shall be treated preventively.

Consult with one of our Urban Forestry Experts to find out what is affecting your tree, if your tree is susceptible and to what, as well as when and how your tree would best be treated.

Prescribe a preventative program curated for your trees today.



Pacific flatheaded borer larvae



Injury from feeding beneath bark on branch



Alder tree bark stained from alder borer