

Peachtree Borer Starts to Fly

Clearwing borer traps in central Kentucky, the Louisville area, and western Kentucky have all recently detected the first of the peachtree borer flight period for this year. That means that [this is the prime time to treat for peachtree borer](#). Earlier this spring, I mentioned the lesser peachtree borer, a closely related species



Peachtree borer, adult female

Photo: Clemson University

Peachtree borer can be managed with a preventive [bark spray](#) of a pyrethroid such as bifenthrin (Onyx or Talstar) or permethrin (Astro). Treatment timing is crucial because the chemical residue must be present when newly hatched larvae are still mobile on the bark and have not yet bored into the plant. Because this species has a long flight period, a [second application](#) can be made 6 weeks after the first.

For [more detailed information](#) about the biology and management of clearwing borers and other borer pests, see "[Insect Borers of Trees and Shrubs](#)".

that flies earlier in the season. To differentiate the two, peachtree borer is sometimes referred to as "greater peachtree borer".

This insect can severely damage peach, plum, cherry, and other [Prunus spp.](#) Adults do not directly harm the plants. Rather, the larvae of these moths bore into tree trunks or shrub stems, often causing significant damage. This species primarily attacks young plants. Larvae often dwell [near the base of the stem](#) and typically [no higher than 2 feet](#) above the ground.



Peachtree borers expel frass (fecal material), which is sometimes mixed with sap.

Photo: James Solomon, USDA Forest Service,

Always Read and Follow Label Directions for Safe Use of Any Pesticide!