

BRONZE BIRCH BORER (*Agrilus anxius*)**Refer to:**

Table 1; Group 3 (Page 60)

Monitoring Season

All season (April – October)

Control Season

All season (April – October) for non-pesticide control activity

Rating

Insect pest; eventually fatal to host if left untreated

Hosts and Damage

- All native and introduced birches may serve as hosts
- Light infestations kill upper branches; severe infestations may kill entire tree
- A sign of borer is die-back in the uppermost branches
- Distinctive D-shaped entrance holes in tree trunks

Physical Characteristics

- Adults are slender, 7.5-11.5 mm long, olive to copper-bronze colored beetles
- Males are greenish-faced and are slightly smaller than the copper-faced females
- Eggs are oval, flattened, creamy white and measure 1.5 mm long by 1 mm wide
- Larvae are white, narrow, flattened and legless with a light brown head capsule. Two brown, hardened spines are located at the end of the thorax
- Larvae measure up to 35 mm in length
- Pupae resemble adults but are creamy white at first and gradually darken to a brownish-black

Biology

- Two years to complete life cycle; adults emerge in late June; have life span of 3 weeks
- Active beetles are present until August
- Females are strong fliers and search actively for suitable egg laying sites in bark crevices – usually on sunny side of open growing trees
- Larvae hatch in about 2 weeks and burrow into cambial area (5 instars)

Why Manage

- Concerns about proliferation in select areas
- Public perception and complaints; control spread to private property
- To maintain native species balance and variety (biodiversity)
- To establish tolerable levels of damage; prevent reduced use of parks
- Increased need for vegetation replacement; reduced vegetation value
- Increased plant susceptibility to disease and other pests
- Maintenance standards; may lead to increased maintenance costs if not controlled

Monitoring Procedures

- Pre-control monitoring
- Post-control monitoring
- Spot checking

Control Procedures (Control when notified or causing harm)

- Physical/mechanical: Pruning (larval control; preventative dead wood)
- Pesticide: None used at present
- Biological: None used at present



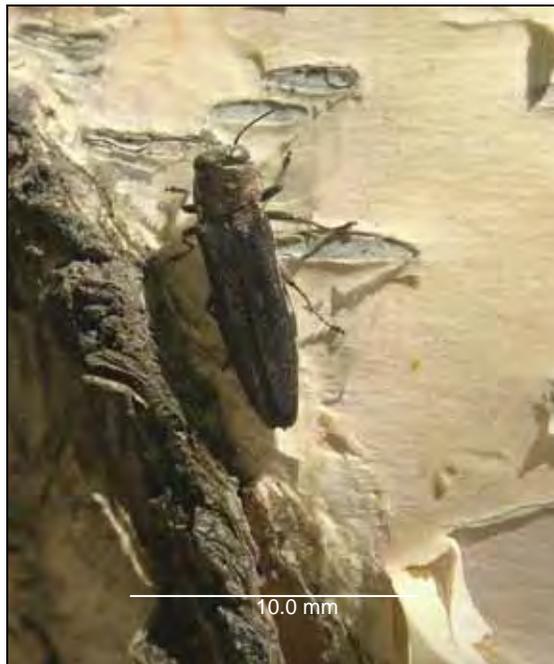
A



B



C



D

A) Damage and defoliation on the upper branches of a birch tree. B) Details of branch damage; branch dieback appears clumped. C) Adult borehole into the tree branch or trunk; boreholes have a characteristic 'D' shape; orange-brown sap often oozes and stains the area around the hole. D) Adult bronze birch borer; adults are not often seen except for a short time during their emergence period.