URBAN TREE PESTS IN LOUISIANA

Granulate Ambrosia Beetle

out tree
March

April Mav

June

PEST IDENTIFICATION

- Scientific name: Xylosandrus crassiusculus
- · Origin: Tropical and subtropical Asia
- Life cycle: Egg, larva, pupa, and male adults (inside tree)
- Females find new trees to bore tunnels (galleries), lay eggs, and introduce Ambrosia fungus for feeding
- Adults are dark reddish; larvae are white with no legs
- They can complete 2 generations per year
- Serious pest of ornamentals and fruit trees

J.E. Mercado 5.178641 1.5 mm for males; 2-3 mm for females L.L. Hyche

Adult and larvae of pest (Bugwood.org

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DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE



Dust protruding from stem (left) boring hole from adult (up-right) (Pictures: Bugwood.org)

- Attacks >100 woody plants:
 Bradford pear, pecan, crape myrtle, persimmon, magnolia, etc.
- Attacks healthy, stressed trees or fresh logs
- Damage: Pest boring in heartwood, Ambrosia fungus blocking xylem
- Signs: Wilted leaves, dead branches, boring dust protruding, exit holes
- Reduces plant health; high pest numbers can kill the tree

STATE DISTRIBUTION



Reported in Eastern USA including Louisiana (red dots; most current data is not available)

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MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Prevention: (Follow label for rates, timing, and safety when using insecticides)

- Monitor: Visual inspection for signs of pest; ethanol traps for adults
- Landscape: Protect trees with Pyrethyroids in spring-summer
- Remove stressed trees (pest preferred hosts)

Treatments:

- Cut down infested trees and burn wood materials
- Spray insecticides to trunks of surrounded trees
- Chemical control is not recommended after trees are infested



Lindgren funnel trap. Homemade trap: Soda bottle upside down, soupy water in bottom, side windows with ethanol strip and bait (Picture: Bugwood.org)

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