



Clearwing borer trap

Photo: Sarah J. Vanek, University of Kentucky

Clearwing Borers take Flight

The UK Nursery Crop Group has recently put up traps to monitor clearwing borer moths such as peachtree borer, dogwood borer, and others. These traps are set up in four counties in central and western Kentucky. We will keep you updated on what we find. Already, we have found that [lesser peachtree borer and lilac borer are in full flight](#). These, like many other phenology events are at least a few weeks ahead of schedule.

Preventive bark sprays using a pyrethroid can provide adequate control of clearwing borers. Unfortunately, systemic products generally do not provide reliable results. [Spray timing is critical](#). The insecticide must be present during the period between egg hatch and the larva's entrance into the tree.

A first application should be made 10 to 14 days after the males' first flight and again six weeks later if the moths are still active.

Based on this information, [preventive sprays needed for lesser peachtree borer and lilac borer would be appropriate at this time](#).

Lesser peachtree borer is closely related to the more commonly known species called peachtree borer or greater peachtree borer. [Lesser peachtree borer prefers older trees](#), whereas greater peachtree borer, which flies about a month later, prefers younger trees. Both species attack [peach, plum, cherry, and other Prunus spp.](#)

Lilac borer is a severe pest of [lilac, privet, and ash](#). This species typically attacks the [lower portions of the plant](#), at heights of 3 feet or less from the ground.

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



Damage caused by lesser peachtree borer

Photo: Carroll E Younce, USDA-ARS, Bugwood.org

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