

Second Peachtree Borer Treatment



Photo: Wendell Snow

Peachtree borer is an important pest in the nursery setting. It is a type of clearwing borer, a group of moths that mimic wasps. Peachtree borer 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 and typically dwells **no higher than 2 feet** above the ground.

The first treatment should be applied 10 to 14 days after the onset of the adult flight period. This falls in mid-June. A **second application** can be made six weeks after the first if the adults are still flying. This falls approximately around the **first of August**. From our trapping efforts, we know that the insects are still flying, and the numbers are not dwindling.

Peachtree borers can be treated **preventively** with **bark sprays** containing pyrethroids such as bifenthrin or permethrin. 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.

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

Always read and follow pesticide label guidelines for safe use of any pesticide!

Symptoms:

- Wet spot on the trunk
- Oozing sap and sawdust-like frass at entrance holes, near or at ground level
- Pupal skins sticking out from the tree
- Branch dieback

Prime time for Obscure Scale Treatment

These tiny insects are a type of **armored scale**. Armored scales produce an external covering to conceal their bodies completely. The covering of the obscure scale is relatively **flat and grey**, making it easily overlooked, just as the name implies.

Obscure scale is particularly common on **pin oak**, but can also attack other oaks as well as **hickory, maple, walnut, and willow**.



J.A. Davidson, UMES

Adult female obscure scale (some with parasitoid emergence holes)

Photo: J.A. Davidson, University of Maryland



Heavily infested pin oak bark

Photo: Michael Masiuk

The insect's covering makes it rather resistant to insecticide sprays, so these treatments must be made while newly hatched scales are still exposed. Crawlers (mobile juveniles) are active over a longer period than many other scales, but their peak activity is in **late July**. This is the best time for a single spray application.

For **more information** about the biology and management of obscure scale and other armored scales visit the articles from [University of Kentucky](#) and [North Carolina State University](#).



Photo: Ken Gray

Second Generation of Pine Needle Scale in July

Another armored scale with active crawlers this time of year is the pine needle scale. This species has **two generations** each year with the first generation hatching in May and the second hatching in **mid to late July**.

Pine needle scale is an important pest of numerous **conifers**. It is particularly common on spruce and pine, especially scotch pine and mugho pine. Other occasional hosts include fir, douglas fir, and hemlock.

Damage includes localized **discoloration** at feeding sites, premature needle drop, and branch dieback when infestations are heavy.

For more information see each of these articles provided by [University of Kentucky](#) and [The Ohio State University](#).

Recent findings of the UK Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab:

Cercospora leaf spot on daisy

Rhizoctonia root/stem rot and **Botrytis blight** on catharanthus

Pythium and **Rhizoctonia root rots** on passionflower

Rhizoctonia root/stem rot on vinca

Phytophthora crown rot on lirioppe

Bacterial leaf spot on ivy

Cedar-quince rust on hawthorn

Bacterial leaf spot on cherry laurel

Spot anthracnose and **powdery mildew** on dogwood

Anthracnose on maple, oak and redbud

Tip blight on pine



Tip blight on pine

Photo: Edward L. Barnard