

ASH BARK BEETLES—*Hylesinus* spp.

HOST: Ash

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE: Larvae are white, “c”-shaped, and legless. Adult beetles are robust, 2 to 4 mm long, and variegated gray and brown.

Adults overwinter in tunnels between the bark and wood of infested branches. In the spring, females construct egg galleries or tunnels perpendicular to the branch or trunk and between the bark and wood of dying or severely weakened trees. During summer, larvae tunnel in the inner bark of the trunk and branches. There are one to three generations per year, depending on location.

As larvae extend their tunnels, the bark becomes sunken and discolored and is marked by encircling rows of holes about 1 mm in diameter and about 4 mm apart. In July or August leaves on girdled branches turn yellow, then red-brown.

CONTROL: No insecticide is currently registered for these insects. Infested branches should be removed and burned. Contact your local extension service for more information.



Ash bark beetle



Ash bark beetle galleries