

COTTONWOOD BORER—*Plectrodera scalator*

HOSTS: Cottonwood and other poplars
**IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE,
AND DAMAGE:** Larvae are cream-colored and reach 32 to 38 mm in length. Beetles are black and white and 25 to 35 mm long with antennae nearly or as long as the body.

Beetles emerge during late spring and summer and feed on tender shoots of young trees. Females lay eggs in bark at the bases of trees. Larvae emerge in 10 to 14 days and mine tunnels in the lower trunk and large roots. Two years are required to complete the life cycle.

Shoots damaged by adult feeding turn black, shrivel up, and die. Sawdust may accumulate in entrance holes to the tunnels and in bark crevices at the bases of trees. Infestations frequently are not discovered until trees are severely damaged and weakened branches and tree portions have broken.

CONTROL: Spray trunks and lower limbs of high value trees with chlorpyrifos when adults begin to emerge in spring. Contact your local extension service for more information on proper treatment time.



Cottonwood borer adult