

BOXELDER BUG—*Leptocoris trivittatus*

HOSTS: Boxelder (Manitoba maple), ash, apple, cherry, and plum

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE: The flat, elongate adult is 10 to 14 mm long and has a grayish-brown to black body with conspicuous red lines on the back. Nymphs initially are bright red and gradually become marked with black as they mature.

Adults overwinter in protected sites. In spring they mate and females lay eggs on leaves. Nymphs are present throughout the summer and adults appear in late summer and early fall.

Both adults and nymphs feed on the sap of leaves, fruits, and seeds. Puncture spots are marked by brown stippling, and severely damaged leaves may curl or appear blistered. Puncture wounds may make fruits unmarketable. Boxelder bugs are a household

nuisance in the fall when adults congregate at overwintering sites in and around dwellings. These bugs do not feed on clothes or any household foods; however, they may stain curtains.

CONTROL: Spray trees with carbaryl in early summer. Common household insecticides can be used to control bugs that enter dwellings.



Boxelder bug adult