

# Ash Bark Beetle

Scientific Name: *Hylesinus* spp.

## Host:

Ash (*Fraxinus* spp., not mountain-ash)

## Damage/symptoms:

The small beetles (2-4mm) make a pattern of ventilation holes that form a ring around the branch. They prefer to breed in recently cut, broken, and stressed trees. They also infest trees weakened by mechanical injury, disease, or fire.



Figure 1. Ash bark beetle adult. Photo by D. Cappaert, Bugwood.



Figure 2. Ash bark beetle galleries under the bark. Photo by J. Solomon, Bugwood.



Figure 3. Ash bark beetle exit holes. Photo by W. Cranshaw, Bugwood.

## Life cycle:

The adult bark beetles emerge in the spring and fly to trunks or limbs of recently felled, dying, or weakened trees. They mate and lay eggs in branches. The larvae burrow under the bark where they continue to develop and feed, pupate, and then emerge as adults. The larvae either overwinter under the bark or the adults cut niches in the outer trunk in which to overwinter.

## Management:

Stressed trees will attract the beetles. Infested branches can be identified with the presence of wilted leaves. Pruning is most successful in the spring before the adult beetles emerge from the bark. Maintain the health and vigor of the tree and prune infested branches. Preventive insecticides can be sprayed on the lower trunk of the tree in late summer/early fall to control some of the overwintering populations of the beetles.

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