

# Engraver Beetles

Scientific Name: *Ips* spp.

**Hosts:** Pine, spruce

**Damage/symptoms:** Dieback at the top of the tree is evident with *Ips* beetle infestations (but this can also be confused with many abiotic-related issues). At the base of the tree, the beetles leave a yellow or reddish/brown dust from boring activity. Shot-hole sized exit holes are evident on the outside of the bark. Galleries from larval feeding are apparent just below the outer bark.



Figure 1. *Ips pini* adult. Photo by K. Walker, Museum Victoria, Bugwood.



Figure 2. Galleries from *Ips* beetles. Photo by S. Tunnock, USFS, Bugwood.

**Life cycle:** Adults overwinter underneath the bark. The larvae create galleries surrounding egg-laying areas. There can be up to four generations per year.



Figure 3. Pines damaged by *Ips* beetle infestations. Photo by S. Katovich, Bugwood.

**Management:** Once *Ips* beetles are in the tree, it is hard to kill the beetle and to correct the damage. Beetles can potentially be prevented from infecting other trees. Preventive contact insecticides can be sprayed on the trunk of the tree prior to future beetle infestations or to protect surrounding healthy trees.

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Disclaimer: These recommendations are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. If any information in these recommendations disagrees with the label, the recommendation must be disregarded. No endorsement is intended for products mentioned. The authors and Montana State University assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.