

Pest Profile



Photo credit (L to R):

Adult: Donald Duerr, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Larva and Pupa: James Solomon, USDA Forest Service Bugwood.org

Common Name: Cottonwood borer

Scientific Name: *Plectrodera scalator*

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Cerambycidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	3-4mm	Light brown eggs are deposited into the trunk of cottonwood trees just below the soil surface. Elliptical in shape, they are very tough, almost a leathery texture
Larva/Nymph	38-50mm	Creamy white, legless, cylindrical with black mouthparts and is wrinkled transversely.
Adult	25-44mm	Robust with antennae solid black and nearly as long as the body. Body is marked with pattern of black rectangular areas on a creamy white to yellow background.
Pupa (if applicable)	38mm	At first they are dull white with the tip becoming dark with time.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host plant/s: Larvae bore into the buds and young shoots of cottonwoods, willows, and poplars.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Trees may be killed when larvae tunnel under the bark through the xylem tissue all the way around the base of the tree. Most commonly cause trees to weaken and fall over in high winds. Adults feed on leaf stems and bark of tender shoots, causing wilting and dying (called flagging).

References:

Cottonwood Borer. (n.d.) Retrieved from
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5349693.pdf

Johnson, W.T. and Lyon, H.H. (1988). Cottonwood Borer. Retrieved from
<http://texasinsects.tamu.edu/bimg177.html>