

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Clemson University- USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Locust Borer

Scientific Name: *Megacyllene robiniae*

Order and Family: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Eggs are white and oval shaped-Eggs are laid in little cracks of the trees bark-Hatch in 5-8 days-One generation
Larva/Nymph	25mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Larvae are cream colored-Heads are brown-Have no legs-Larvae hibernate in the fall in a chamber they construct-Larvae tunnel in trees, making large tunnels
Adult	20mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Are black beetles with yellow stripes on the thorax and yellow W-shaped stripes on the wing covers-Long antennae
Pupa (if applicable)	19mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Pupate in July or August-Pupate in the tunnel they were living in-Creamy white

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

Host plant/s: The larvae of the Locust Borer feed on Black locust trees. The adults feed on goldenrod.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): The larvae tunnel inside locust tree branches and trunks, causing damage to the heartwood and the tree limbs. Branches become weak and can be broken off more easily in storms. The damage causes trees to be deformed and the trunks to have knotted swelling or bulging areas on them. Sap comes out of holes from their feeding. The locust borer is a pest of Black Locust trees and if it is not managed the tunneling from the larvae may result in tree limbs being lost and even the death of the tree from the damage.

References:

Bartlett, T., Cotinis, Nendick-Mason, H., Moisset, B., Mcleod, R., Entz, C., Quinn, M., Ferguson, D. (2004, February 16). Species *Megacyllene robiniae* – Locust Borer. Retrieved from <http://bugguide.net/node/view/436>.

Cranshaw, W. (2014). *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs*. Princeton University Press.

Galford, R., J. (1984). The Locust Borer. Retrieved from <http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/locust/locust.htm>.

Karren, B., J., and Roe, H., A., (2002, January). Locust Borer. Retrieved from <http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/locust-borers02.pdf>.