

# Pest Profile



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**Common Name:** Willow gall limb borer

**Scientific Name:** *Agrilus politus* Say

**Order and Family:** Coleoptera, Buprestidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• almost transparent white, shiny, and oval</li><li>• soft shell</li></ul>
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• pale white</li><li>• greatly elongate</li><li>• flattened</li></ul>
<b>Adult</b>	5.0 – 8.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• elongate</li><li>• slightly flattened</li><li>• bright brassy to coppery, purplish, greenish, or bluish and moderately shiny</li><li>• antennae barely reach middle of pronotum</li><li>• pronotum wider than long, and sides curved slightly outward</li><li>• elytra wider than base of pronotum</li><li>• wing covers somewhat separated at tips</li></ul>

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

**Host plant/s:** Willow and maple. Preferred hosts are arroyo willow, Scouter willow, Pacific willow, and weeping willow. Rocky Mountain maple, stripe maple, and dwarf maple are also hosts.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Branch dieback and tree mortality are symptoms of attack. Larvae mine the inner bark and wood of normal, injured, and dying trees and shrubs. Attacks often result in swollen areas and gall-like growths on the branches and trunk. Trees that are attacked repeatedly and survive often develop bark scars that detract from their aesthetic value.

**Reference:**

Hanna Royals, Screening Aids, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Solomon, J. D. (1995). Guide to insect borers in North American broadleaf trees and shrubs. *Agriculture Handbook (Washington)*, (AH-706).