

# Peachtree Borer

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Hi-Yield®

ferti-lome Info Sheet



Peachtree borer and the lesser peachtree borer can be a serious insect pest of peach, plum, cherry, nectarine, apricot and other stone fruit. Both are clear winged moths (Images of female 1 & male 2) this is important later in control.

The lesser borer prefers to establish in previously injured areas of the trunk such as pruning cuts, cankers and areas of weed-eater blight. These are the areas where the lesser can be found, accompanied by an exude of gum mixed with sawdust (Image 3 & 4). The greater peachtree borer will be found from just a few inches above ground, to up to 6 inches below the ground (Image 3 & 5).

Both can emerge from late-May through September. Eggs are laid on the surface of the tree or in the soil near the trunk. The larvae (Image 5) soon emerge and tunnel into the bark, this is when you can kill them.

## Control

As with many problems, the best control is to keep the plant in good health by; watering as needed, mulch (not up against the trunk), fertilizer at least once per year, proper pruning and control peach leaf curl.

When spraying, you are making a protective application to kill the larvae as they borer into the bark after hatching. This protective layer needs to only be applied to the trunk of the tree, normally from the lower most branches to the ground (Image 4), hit any exposed roots as well. Spray heavily, until running from the trunk onto the soil below. Once the larvae are under the bark, sprays are ineffective.

Timing of sprays is as easy as buying a peach borer trap and monitor. Make your first application within 10 days of detection of adult moths and repeat again in 10 to 14 days. When borers are in high numbers apply again, twice in September to catch when fall emerging adults occur.

I mentioned above that the adults are clear winged moths and that this was important. It is important because this puts them in Lepidoptera and systemic insecticides such as **FL Tree & Shrub Drench** are ineffective on Lepidoptera, so I'm saying it will **NOT** work on them.

Two products that we do have that are labeled for peach borer are, *HY Garden & Farm Insect Control* and *HY Indoor/Outdoor*. Both of these are 10% permethrin and to get the product to stick and leave the longest residue to kill the larvae, add *HY Spreader Sticker* to the mix, it will also increase penetration into the soil at the base.



1



2



3



4



5

