Alert! Wood boring beetles found in Brookhaven!

Southern Pine Beetles and Asian Ambrosia Beetles have been detected in the metro Atlanta area and in the City of Brookhaven. These wood boring pests attack **BOTH stressed** and **healthy** trees.

Signs of infestation:

Southern Pine Beetles-
-Pitch tubes
-Boring dust
-Needles turning pale-to-yellow green, then red and brown.

Asian Ambrosia Beetles-
-Toothpick-like spines of boring dust protruding from holes
-Spines are 2 to 3 inches long and fragile

Recommendations:

Trees infested with Southern Pine Beetles should be removed, burned and chipped on site.

Spread chips as mulch on non-pine areas.

Infested trees SHOULD NOT be cut and stored for firewood unless covered and sealed with a plastic or vinyl tarp.

Trees infested with Asian Ambrosia Beetles should be removed and burned, and trunks should be treated with an insecticide labeled for this pest.

Southern Pine Beetle & Infestation

Asian Ambrosia Beetle & Infestation

For more information or treatment options please contact a Certified Arborist.

You can find an Arborist at the following websites: **treesaregood.com** or **ISA-arbor.com**

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Brookhaven GEORGIA

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Asian Ambrosia Beetles (AAB)

(Source: University of Florida/IFAS)

AAB Entered the United States at Charleston, South Carolina about 1974. Now known to attack various trees and shrubs, including pecan, peach, plum, cherry, persimmon, oak, elm, sweet gum, magnolia, fig, buckeye, and sweet potato. It probably will attack other plants on which it has yet to be found.

Damage: Adults and larvae bore into twigs, branches or small trunks of woody host plants, excavate a system of tunnels in the wood or pith and introduce a symbiotic ambrosial fungus on which they feed. The boring and introduced fungus damage and clog the xylem, ultimately killing all or part of the plant. Infestations normally can be identified by toothpick-like spines of boring dust protruding from holes made in the host plant by females excavating their galleries. The strings or spines of boring dust may be up to 2 to 3 inches long but are fragile and easily broken off by wind or rain. Unlike other pests, which normally attack only stressed or damaged plants, Asian ambrosia beetles attack apparently healthy plants. Individual plants may host up to 50 beetles. It is almost impossible to save heavily infested plants.

Asian ambrosia beetles must be controlled but how? There are no systemic insecticides that will kill the beetles in the trees. Once in the tree, the beetle itself is harmless. It is the fungus that actually kills the tree. Infested trees will most likely die eventually.

The best way to control AAB damage is by prevention. Trunk sprays using pyrethroid insecticides applied in late February offer protection. Homeowners should remove affected plants or plant parts and they should be burned. The trunks of remaining plants should be treated with an appropriate insecticide and monitored.

Southern Pine Beetles (SPB)

(Source: Georgia Forestry Commission)

Signs of attacks on the outside of the tree will be pitch tubes and boring dust. Needles will turn a pale to yellow green, then red, then brown. The time required for the needles to begin fading after an attack depends on many factors. Trees attacked during the summer will begin to fade in about two weeks, whereas, those attacked in early spring or late fall may not turn color for several weeks to months.

The most important step in stopping a beetle infestation in a yard is to remove all infested trees. Residual healthy trees can be protected by the application of an approved insecticide to the entire outer bark surface of the trunk. Tree companies are often limited by their spray equipment and can only spray up the tree about 15 feet. This will not be effective in preventing attacks from the southern pine beetle or Ips engraver beetles. Lightning struck pines should he removed as soon as possible to avoid a southern pine beetle or any other bark beetle problem. Apply an approved insecticide to high-value trees when the threat of SPB attack is imminent and the potential benefits outweigh the costs and risks of chemical use.

Trees that have been mass attacked by southern pine beetles cannot be saved by the application of an insecticide to the outside bark or by injecting it into the tree. Homeowners need to be aware of persons advocating the use of systemic chemicals for the control of any pine bark beetle. Research has yet to prove the efficacy of these compounds. The best way to protect your pine trees is to make sure they are not attacked in the first place. Keep them healthy. Remember, a wounded, sick, or lightening-struck pine on your lawn is a standing invitation to dinner for southern pine beetles.

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