

1959

EC59-1592 Entomology : Peach Tree Borers

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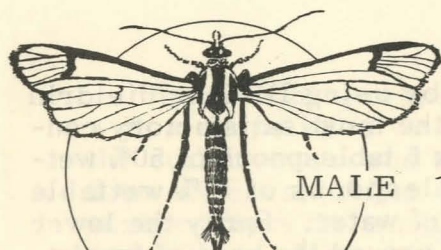
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entomology

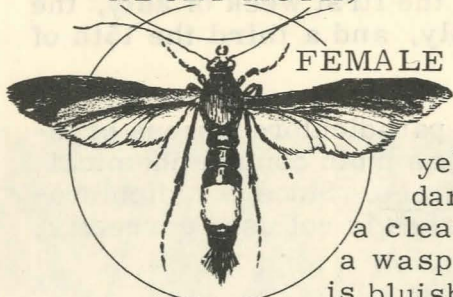
PEACH TREE BORERS

by ROBERT ROSELLE,
Extension Entomologist

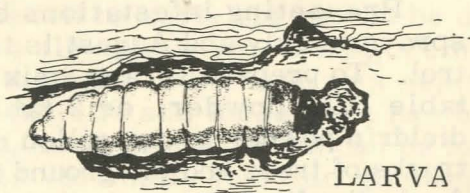


MALE

ADULT MOTH



FEMALE



LARVA

Description:

When fully grown, peach tree borers are about one inch long, yellowish-white in color, and have dark colored heads. The adult is a clear-winged moth that resembles a wasp. The body of the female moth is bluish, having clear hind wings, and an orange cross band on the abdomen. The male has both wings nearly clear and several narrow yellow bands across the abdomen.

Injury:

Peach, cherry, apricot, plum, prune, nectarine and most ornamental varieties of stone fruits are attacked.

Female moths lay several hundred eggs on the bark or in the soil near the base of trees. Eggs hatch in about 10 days, the worms feed in the bark during the late summer and early fall, feeding deeper into the trees as they

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become larger. Damage is usually near the soil line. Trees may be killed or severely injured as borers girdle the trunks. A gummy secretion containing saw dust at the base of trees usually indicates the presence of borers.

There is one generation each year. However, since eggs are laid over a long period of time from late July until early September, large and small borers may be present at the same time. Borers feed until cold weather stops them, but again feed in the spring until fully grown.

Control:

Preventing infestations by using DDT or dieldrin sprays in July and August is the most satisfactory control. To prepare sprays, mix 6 tablespoons of 50% wettable DDT powder, or 2 tablespoons of 15% wettable dieldrin powder in one gallon of water. Spray the lower trunks of trees and the ground around the base of trunks. Apply the first spray during the first week of July, the second about the 25th of July, and a third the 15th of August.

If trees become infested, paradichlorobenzene crystals, a readily available clothes moth control chemical, can be used to kill borers in trees. Since paradichlorobenzene may damage young trees is not used correctly, follow directions carefully.

In Nebraska, paradichlorobenzene should be used only from September 15 to October 5. Before applying the crystals, clean gum and trash from around the base of trees and level the soil. The crystals should be applied in a circular band about one inch to one and a half inches wide, with the inner edge of the band one inch to one and a half inches from the tree. Use the following chart to determine the amount of crystals to use per tree:

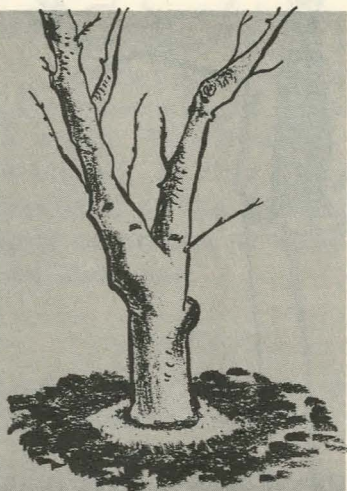
AGE OF TREE	1 - 3 yrs.	4 - 5 yrs.	6 yrs. older
AMOUNT			
PER TREE	1/4 - 1/2 oz.	3/4 oz.	1 - 1 1/2 oz.

Cover the band of paradichlorobenzene with earth, banking it up around the tree to a height of three or four inches and pack well. After three weeks rake the mounds to prevent chemical injury to trees.

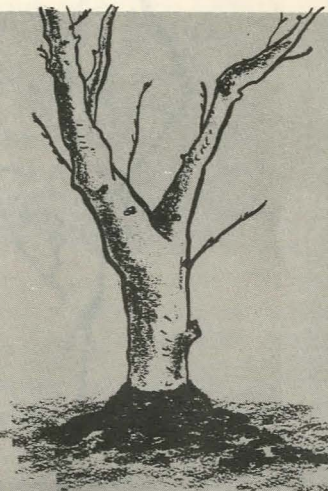
Handworming in the fall or early spring can be done with a shape knife or a flexible wire. First, remove the soil from around the base of the tree to a depth of 3 or 4 inches. After the dirt and loose bark has been scraped from the trunk, most of the borers can be found and killed. Make cuts vertically to avoid girdling of trees.



**CLEAN AND LEVEL SOIL
AROUND BASE**

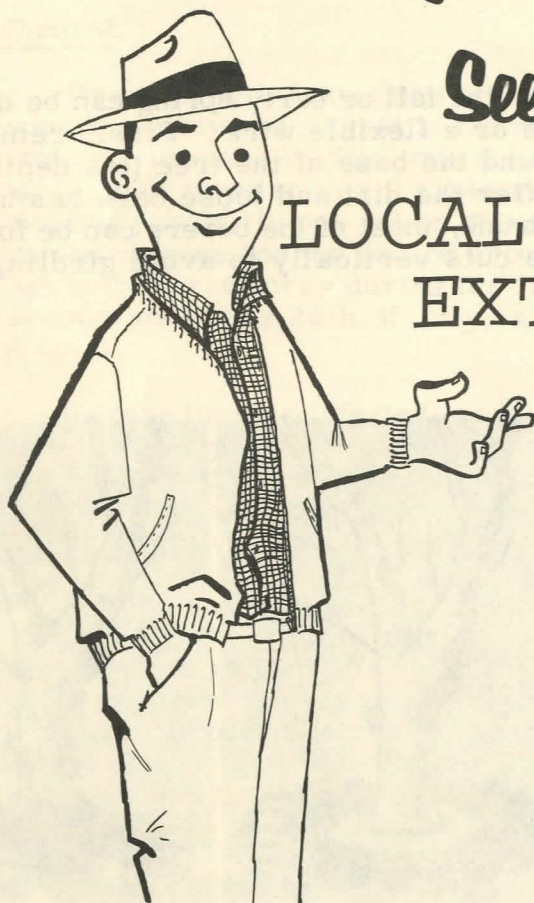


**APPLY PARADICHLORO-
BENZENE CRYSTALS**



**BANK SOIL AROUND
TREE**

For Further Information.....



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