We’re Here to Help

Collier Arbor Care is here to assist you with your tree, shrub and lawn care needs. If you would like more information on any of our services listed below, please give us a call or visit our website for valuable plant information.

Plant Health Care Programs
Targeted Insect & Disease Treatments
Pruning Trees & Shrubs
Tree Removal & Stump Grinding
Organic-based Lawn Care
Tree & Shrub Fertilization
Soil Treatments
Hazard Tree Analysis
Landscape Weed Control
Consulting & Diagnosis
Tree Preservation Plans

Above: Adult Bronze Birch Borer
Fact Sheet #5

Bronze Birch Borer

**Description**
Adults are small beetles with a bronze body. The larvae stage is the most damaging. The larvae are white with a light brown head.

**Plants Affected**
All birch species can be attacked but the two most susceptible, the European birch and the white-barked Himalayan birch, are the most widely planted in our area.

**Symptoms/Damage**
The first symptom of a bronze birch borer problem is often yellow, sparse, stunted leaves in the upper portions of the tree which may progress to twig and branch dieback if larval populations are high. A sure sign of bronze birch borer damage is raised bark welts or ridges on the bark, caused by larvae tunneling beneath the bark.

Repeated attacks by the larvae eventually disrupt nutrient transport and can lead to tree death. Also when the adult emerges, it leaves a distinctive D-shaped exit-hole about 1/5” wide in the bark. These D-shaped exit holes may be stained with rust colored sap.

**Life Cycle**
Adults emerge from previously infested trees between early May and early June. They then feed on the leaves of the birch, eventually laying eggs in bark crevices and cracks. Larvae hatch from the eggs and immediately begin to mine into the bark. The larvae damage trees by feeding on the inner bark and over wintering within the galleries. In spring the larvae pupate into adults within the galleries, thus completing the life cycle.

**Management**
Management strategies that improve tree health will reduce susceptibility to the borer. Proper cultural practices include watering during dry, hot periods; mulching; avoiding wounds or injury to the tree; and pruning out dead and dying branches. Trees are unlikely to recover once 50% or more of the crown is damaged.

Severely infested trees should be promptly removed and destroyed to reduce local borer populations. Systemic insecticide drenches around the base of stressed or lightly affected trees can prevent or help control outbreaks. Borer populations can also be reduced by applying insecticides to the bark to kill larvae before they enter the tree.

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Collier Arbor Care is a homegrown, second-generation family-owned business. We’ve been around since 1937.

We are recognized by our customers and by horticulture professionals for knowledge, experience, trusted advice, and the highest standards of workmanship. The continuing education of our staff brings the most up-to-date knowledge and industry techniques to your landscape.