

IPM of Clearwing Borers

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Integrated pest management (IPM) of clearwing borer moths (Family Sesiidae) is based on the following control strategies:

Maintaining plant vitality

A year-round maintenance program including fertilization, pruning, watering, and mulching will help trees and shrubs resist borer attack. Control of other insects (such as scales and caterpillars), mites, and diseases will also help maintain plant resistance.

Use of Pheromone Traps to Monitor

These traps use a tiny amount of a perfume-like, sex lure to attract and capture the male moths (Figure 1). Since only the males are attracted, there is no risk of increased borer damage near traps.

Hang the traps in convenient locations above the reach of children and dogs. Where timing is critical, check the traps at least twice a week, carefully removing all borers (a few drops of gasoline or charcoal starter will loosen the sticky material). Where a specific borer, such as the dogwood borer, is the main problem, check the table for predicted flight period of the target species.

This allows the species in the area to be identified and the correct period of control to be accurately determined for that area. The information in this report will provide a guide for clearwing borer monitoring.

Figure 1: Pheromone trap



Applications of Preventive Treatments

Clearwing borers must be controlled before they enter a plant, so correctly timed preventive sprays are essential to protect susceptible trees and shrubs. The use of the correct treatment and thorough coverage of all bark surfaces are important factors in prevention. The eggs and young caterpillars (before they enter the tree) are the stages control is directed towards.

Timing Preventive Sprays

Timing of preventative sprays is critical for control. Please contact your Bartlett Arborist Representative for more detailed information on how to manage this pest in your landscape.



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