

INVASIVE SHOT HOLE BORER



WHAT IS THE THREAT:

Invasive Shot Hole Borer (*nr Euwallacea fornicatus*), or ISHB, is an exotic ambrosia beetle that was first detected in 2003 in southern California and is responsible for attacking a large number of tree species. Adult beetles are either black or brown in color, whereas larvae are white and grub-like. The term “ambrosia” refers to two or more fungi species that are carried by the female and inserted into tree when she mines galleries into the sapwood. The fungus grows in the galleries, where developing adults and larvae feed on it. The presence of both the galleries and the fungi increases tree stress and can lead to tree mortality.

WHERE IS THE THREAT:

The ISHB is currently found in southern California, specifically in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego Counties. While this beetle can attack over 300 plant species, the majority of which are hardwoods, it can only reproduce in 65 species, including maple, sycamore, oak, willow, alder, and liquidambar.

SYMPTOMS:

The characteristics of ISHB attack and fungus infection differ among tree species. The beetle commonly attacks the main stem and larger branches of trees but injury can be found on twigs as small as 1 inch in diameter. It produces a very precise, perfectly round, tiny (< 0.1 inches in diameter) entry hole in most trees. Depending on the tree species attacked, ISHB injury can be identified either by staining, gumming, or a sugaring response on the outer bark. Fungal infection can cause leaf discoloration, wilting, branch dieback, and tree mortality.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT:

Preventative treatment with TREE-äge® R10 or TREE-äge® G4 prior to initial ISHB attack is the recommended management strategy. In addition, the systemic application of Propizol® will protect trees from the fungi introduced by the ambrosia beetle. Treatments should be reapplied every 2 years.



A new ISHB attack on California sycamore



External bark staining caused by ISHB attack on California sycamore



Internal galleries caused by ISHB attack on California sycamore

Header Image taken by: Arborjet, Inc., Attack on CA sycamore by: Arborjet, Inc., Bark staining taken by: Arborjet, Inc., ISHB exit hole taken by: Arborjet, Inc.

TREE-äge® R10 Insecticide is a Restricted Use Pesticide and must only be sold to and used by a state certified applicator or by persons under their direct supervision.