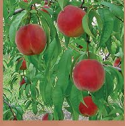




# Stone Fruit IPM for Beginners

Developed by the Great Lakes Fruit Workers and funded by a working group grant from the North Central Integrated Pest Management Center



## Chapter 19

# American plum borer

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## American plum borer

*Euzophera semifuneralis* (Walker)

### Hosts

Mostly attacks plums and cherries, but can be a pest of peach and nectarine in most fruit-growing states and provinces in eastern North America. Infestation of healthy, non-wounded tissue is rare.

### Time of concern

Two generations or major flight periods are common in its northern range. First-brood adults emerge in early May into June with peak emergence in mid-May at the white bud stage. The second flight begins in early July and extends through mid-September, coinciding with the mechanical harvest of cherries.

### Damage, symptoms and pest cycle

The adult is a light grayish brown moth with reddish brown forewings marked by wavy black and brown vertical bands about two-thirds the distance from the base.



NRAES

The larva ranges in color from grayish green to grayish purple, with a yellow to brown head capsule, cervical shield and anal plate.



NRAES-75

Larvae feed in the cambium layer of the trunk or scaffolds, which they can access only through openings created by mechanical damage, disease, sunscald, winter injury, etc. They also infest black knot in plums. Because they feed horizontally, girdling can eventually occur; drought conditions intensify feeding effects.



NRAES-75

Visible damage by larvae.

### IPM steps for beginners

Examine the trunk area up to 3 feet from the ground for frass and fresh gumming with frass. Use pheromone traps to monitor species presence and flight activity starting at the end of April, replacing lures before the summer generation emerges at the end of June. An average of six adults per trap per week indicates a potential problem.

Minimize trunk damage caused by mechanical harvesting and cankers. Where populations of the pest are high, apply coarse insecticide sprays directly to the tree trunk shortly after petal fall and again, if necessary, in midsummer.

**Acknowledgements:** This information was adapted with permission from "Tree Fruit Field Guide," NRAES, Cornell University.