

LILAC (ASH) BORER—*Podosesia syringae*; BANDED ASH CLEARWING—*P. aureocincta*

HOSTS: Ash and lilac

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE,

AND DAMAGE: Mature larvae are about 25 mm long and creamy white with shining brown heads. The wasp-like moths vary from black and yellow to orange and brown, have clear wings, and have a wingspan of 26 to 28 mm.

Mature lilac borer larvae overwinter and pupate in tunnels under the bark. Moths emerge and lay eggs on the bark during March, April, and May in the Southern Plains, and during May, June, and July at northern sites. Larvae of banded ash clearwings pupate in August, and moths fly in late August or early September. Banded ash clearwings overwinter as young larvae in tunnels.

During the summer, larvae of both species mine the sapwood of young trees, causing leaves to turn reddish-brown and branches to die back and break. Entire trees are often killed. Entrances to the tunnels are frequently associated with sunken and cankered areas on stems and branches. Dark moist sawdust clings to the tunnel entrances and to the bases of trees. Empty pupal skins often protrude from exit holes.

CONTROL: Spray trunks and all branches below 3 m with chlorpyrifos. Trees should be sprayed two to three times at 2-week intervals during moth flight. Traps baited with a male attractant, (Z,Z)-3,13-octadecadienyl acetate, can be used to monitor moth flight and determine the optimum times to spray. Trees should be sprayed 10 to 14 days after the first moth is captured. Cut and burn heavily infested trees and branches.



Lilac (ash) borer damage



Lilac (ash) borer larva



Lilac (ash) borer adult female