

# PEACHTREE BORER—*Synanthedon pictipes*; LESSER PEACHTREE BORER—*S. exitiosa*

**HOSTS:** Peach, plum, and cherry

**IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE:** The appearances, life cycles, and types of damage of these two insects are similar. Larvae are hairless, cream-colored, and 12 to 25 mm long. The moths closely resemble wasps or bees, have long narrow wings, a wingspan of 1 to 3 cm, and are metallic blue to black with bright orange or yellow bands. Adults are swift fliers and often are found around flowers.

There is one generation per year. Immature larvae overwinter in their burrows and emerge as adults in early summer. Females lay up to 800 eggs in bark cracks, crevices, and wounds. Eggs hatch within 2 weeks and larvae immediately begin boring into the sapwood. Entrances to galleries are marked by masses of gummy exudate and brown sawdust-like material.

Young trees may be girdled and killed. Older

**CONTROL:** Spray the root collar, trunk, and large branches with lindane, endosulfan, fluvalinate, or chlorpyrifos two to three times during the spring and summer to prevent the newly hatched caterpillars from boring into the trunk. Do not allow sprays to touch the foliage. The timing and number of applica-

tions varies with the site and season. Your local extension service will have current information on the timing and number of applications for your area. A commercially available male attractant can be used to monitor moth flight and determine the optimum times to spray.



*Lesser peachtree borer damage*



*Lesser peachtree borer adult*



*Peachtree borer adult*