

# CLEARWING BORERS: VIBURNUM BORER—*Synanthedon viburni*; CURRANT BORER—*S. tipuliformis*

**HOSTS:** Viburnum, currant, raspberry, and gooseberry

**IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE:** Larvae are white with dark heads. Adult viburnum borers are blue-black clearwing moths with yellow markings on the thorax and a wingspan of 16 to 22 mm. Adult currant borers are black with a yellow band on the abdomen, large anal tufts, and a wingspan of 16 to 20 mm.

Adults appear in May or June. Female viburnum borers lay eggs in bark crevices near gall tissue or existing wounds, and larvae tunnel under the bark. Female currant borers lay eggs on the stems, and larvae tunnel within the stem. Larvae of both species overwinter in the tunnels.

Stems damaged by the viburnum borer may be girdled and die. Stems infested with currant borer wilt and die back.

**CONTROL:** During moth flight, spray stems with methoxychlor or chlorpyrifos two or three times at 2-week intervals. Commercially available traps baited with a male attractant can be used to monitor viburnum borer flight and to determine the optimum times to spray. Cut and burn heavily infested branches and plants before moth emergence.



Viburnum borer adult



Currant borer adult