FACT SHEET

Two-Lined Chestnut Borer

An Insect That Can Kill Oak Trees

Two-Lined Chestnut Borer is a native beetle that attacks oak trees throughout Minnesota. It is particularly damaging to trees during and after drought periods. The best prevention is to reduce the impact of drought or other root stress from occurring to trees in urban landscapes.

Infested Oak Trees Require Treatment for Control

All Oak species are susceptible to the Two-Lined Chestnut Borer. With early detection, Two-Lined Chestnut Borer can be treated with systemic insecticides. Treatment timelines will vary and are dependent upon the levels of tree infestation.

What to Look for

- Sparse, small and discolored leaves.
- Leaves turn uniformly red-brown.
- Tree canopy dieback.
- D-Shaped exit holes in the bark showing where adult borers exited.

Life Cycle

- Adult beetles lay eggs on stressed oaks in June and July.
- Larvae feed on the inner bark of live branches and stems.
- Larvae pupate under the bark and remain through winter.
- Adults emerge through D-shaped exit holes the following June.

Treatment and Prevention

- Water trees during drought periods. Drought conditions exist when less than 1 – 1½" of rain has fallen per week.
- Do not fertilize without increasing water availability.
- Mulch tree or treat with Root Enhancement System©.
- Treatment timelines are dependent upon your tree, landscape, insect infestation levels, time of season, and available treatment options.

Dieback starts from the top of the tree and moves downward.

D-shaped exit hole.

Two-lined chestnut borer beetle.
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