

GOLDSPOTTED OAK BORER: A New Threat to Oaks in California

The goldspotted oak borer (GSOB), *Agrilus coxalis*, is a non-native insect that is killing several species of oaks. The new woodborer was first linked with oak mortality in southern California in May of 2008. Since 2002, this exotic insect has killed an estimated 17,000 oaks on public and private lands in a small area of the state.

IMPACTS



Estimated area of infestation in San Diego Co.



GSOB is native to Mexico, Guatemala, and southeastern Arizona.



Coast live oak



California black oak



Canyon live oak

The woodborer is known to attack these oak species.



Coast live oak showing injury from GSOB.



Please do not move oak firewood it may introduce the beetle into additional areas.

IDENTIFICATION



Adults have six distinguishing orange spots on their forewings.



Adults are 1 cm long and bullet shaped. Adults are rarely seen.



Mature larvae are 2 cm long, white, and legless. Repeated larvae feeding injures and kills trees.



Larvae can be recognized by the pincher-like spines located at the tip of the abdomen.

For additional information, please visit: www.fs.fed.us/r5/spf/thp; www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland; and www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgmt/resource_mgmt_pestmanagement.php



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SYMPTOMS



D-shaped exit holes of the adult. Exit holes are 4 mm in width.



Woodpeckers feeding on larvae under the bark.



Dark-colored stains can represent feeding from the new oak borer.



Crown thinning and branch die-back are also a sign of attack from the woodborer.



Larval galleries of the goldspotted oak borer on the surface of the wood.



Larvae and pupae are often found in the outer bark.