

## Ambrosia Beetle Damage Report – May 10, 2011

This is turning out to be the worst year yet for ambrosia beetle damage in our chapter's orchards. We began preparing for the expected emergence of the beetles on March 8th, when 13 of our members met with Stanton Gill, an entomologist with the University of Maryland Extension. Our strategy was to attempt to detect the beetles' arrival with traps and visual monitoring and to spray with permethrin as soon as they were detected.

The first beetle damage to one of our orchards was detected on April 11, when about a dozen trees at IWLA - Damascus were observed to have boreholes. The orchard was sprayed on April 14, but by then about 60 trees showed boreholes. Over the following three weeks it has become clear that we did not have enough monitoring and spraying help in place to deal with the multiple beetle attacks. Beetles have been reported at the following orchards:

IWLA-Damascus - Severe infestation on April 11

Fox Haven - Severe infestation detected on April 29

WSSC - Only 5 or 6 infested trees so far

IWLA-Rockville - Many ambrosia beetles in traps, but no boreholes so far

Monocacy - Several infested trees on May 5th.

IWLA-Waldorf - More than 100 trees severely infested on May 9th (1st inspection).

WMREC - More than 100 tree infested on May 3rd. (1st inspection)

The trees exhibiting serious damage should be cut off at the root collar and burned before the eggs hatch, which occurs 55 days after they are laid. So far, work parties to remove trees are scheduled for Sunday, May 22 at 10:00 at Fox Haven and Sunday, May 29 at IWLA-Damascus.