

Cherry Bark Tortrix

TREE DOCTOR TIPS

Cherry Bark Tortrix (*Enarmonia formosana*)

DESCRIPTION:

The cherry bark tortrix (CBT) is a Eurasian pest first discovered in North America in the early 1990s. Fully grown larvae are just under ½” long, with pale-gray to slightly pink bodies and dark heads. Pupae are about ½” long and light brown. They are found in bark cracks or protruding from bark. Adult moths are mottled-brown with coppery wing spots and wingspans of just over ½” inch.

HOSTS:

CBT moths are major pests in the Pacific Northwest, where they affect rosaceous trees and shrubs. Affected plants include apple, crabapple, hawthorn, Mountain ash, pear and *Photinia* species. Prunus species are the preferred hosts.

BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS:

CBT larvae overwinter under the bark of host trees, where they feed on living tissue. Initially, the feeding stimulates the exudation of gum-like resin that is often mixed with silk and fecal material. Reddish-orange “frass tubes” protruding from the bark are other signs of infestation, along with cracking and curling bark, cankers and large swellings. Serious infestations cause branch dieback, followed by potential tree death.

Mature larvae pupate in the frass tubes in early spring, and emerge as adults shortly thereafter. Flight occurs in summer. Less mature larvae pupate later, creating more flight activity in late summer.

Females lay eggs on bark, in crevices and at graft and

other wound sites. When they emerge, larvae feed in all directions just beneath the outer bark, and move into the cambium layer (but they do not attack the wood). CBT has one generation per year.

MANAGEMENT:

Remove and destroy seriously infested plants. Monitor host species for the presence of pupal chambers, and remove the chambers and loose bark if they appear. Set pheromone traps between early spring to fall to catch adult moths. Fertilize and water trees during drought periods to invigorate them. Practice good pruning techniques, and prune during the dormant season. Cover injured bark and pruning wounds with pruning seal. To help reduce populations of overwintering larvae, apply dormant oil and labeled insecticide to trunks and branches. Research for an effective biological control is underway.



FIGURE A. ADULT CHERRY BARK TORTRIX MOTH

*The scientists at **The Davey Institute** laboratory and research facility support our arborists and technicians in diagnosing and prescribing based on the latest arboricultural science. For specific treatment and application details, your arborist may consult *The Davey Institute PHC Handbook*.*

