

Southern Pine Beetle

TREE DOCTOR TIPS

Southern Pine Beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*)

DESCRIPTION:

Southern pine beetle (SPB) is a 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch wood-boring insect that infests pine trees, killing even large trees very quickly. It is one of the most destructive pests in the Southern and Southeastern United States.

HOSTS:

Preferred host trees include loblolly, shortleaf and Virginia pine, although all species of pine are susceptible. Trees that are weak or damaged from drought, lightning or construction are especially vulnerable.

BIOLOGY AND SYMPTOMS:

Southern pine beetles produce four or five generations a year. Their larvae tunnel underneath tree bark, damaging and severing vascular tissues in their wake. Symptoms include changes in canopy color (green to dull green to yellow to reddish-brown); brown-red dust; and whitish pitch (pine sap) tubes.

MANAGEMENT:

To reduce the chance of attack, remove infested trees to prevent further spread of the disease. Never use the cut wood as firewood. In addition, keep pines healthy and vigorous by watering, fertilizing and mulching regularly.



FIGURE A. SIGNS OF DAMAGE ON A TRUNK OF A LOBLOLLY PINE FROM THE SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE

FIGURE B. SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE; ADULT
(Photo credit: USDA Forest Service - Region 8 - Southern, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org)

FIGURE C. PUPAE OF THE SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE
(Photo credit, figures A & C: Erich G. Vallery, USDA Forest Service - SRS-4552, Bugwood.org)

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*.

