

# Peach Twig Borer (*Anarsia lineatella*)

September, 2020

## Hosts

Peach, apricot, nectarine, plum, prune

## Damage

In the spring, larvae bore into buds and developing shoots causing them to wilt and die (Figure 4). Larvae of the summer generations attack the fruit, usually making several entry holes near the stem end. Damaged fruit and twigs exude gum (Figure 2).

## Identification

**Larva** - Reddish-brown with pale to white segments giving a ringed appearance; head and thorax dark brown to gray. Mature larvae up to 12 mm long (Figures 1 and 3).

**Adults** - Grayish moths, 11 mm long.

## Life History

Peach twig borers overwinter as larvae on host trees and are active March to early May. First brood adults are present in May and June during which time they lay eggs on leaves, fruit or twigs. First generation larvae are present June through early August. Second brood adults appear in late July and lay eggs for the second generation of larvae, which appear in late September to feed for a short time before seeking overwintering sites. There are two generations each year with a partial third in some years.

## Monitoring

Pheromone-baited traps are useful in monitoring male moths in order to properly time spray applications against spring and summer broods of larvae. Careful examination of developing shoots and buds (spring)



Figure 1. Peach twig borer larva damage to new growth



Figure 2. Peach twig borer larva damage to fruit



Figure 3. Peach twig borer larva. Photo courtesy of Hugh Phillip

and fruit (summer) for presence of larvae will also aid in proper timing of sprays. Check [BC DAS](#) for degree day information.

## Control

**Biological** - *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) products have been effective if applied when larvae are first noticed and before they tunnel into twigs, buds or fruit.

**Chemical** - If an average of two or more first brood moths are caught per trap per week, apply treatments 10-14 days later to control adults and emerged larvae. To ensure good crop protection, continue monitoring for second brood moths until at least mid-August. Apply a second spray 10-14 days if moth captures exceed an average of five moths per trap per week. Apply Altacor or Exirel within 7 days of first trap catch of adult male moths. Imidan provides 2 weeks of protection and Altacor 7 days. Imidan is registered for use on peaches only against this pest. Check [BC DAS](#) for degree day and timing information.



Figure 4. Developing shoots of peach and apricot wilt in spring and die from burrowing larvae.

Photo courtesy Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

## Recommended insecticide treatments and timing:

Timing	Product
Dormant/Delayed dormant	Harvanta, Rimon
Pink (peach)	Imidan
Petal fall	Altacor, Exirel, Harvanta, Imidan, Rimon, Success/Entrust
Petal fall (peach only)	Decis
Husk fall (apricot)	Entrust
Summer	Altacor, Exirel, Harvanta, Imidan, Rimon, Success/Entrust