



## Roundheaded appletree borer

*Saperda candida*

Order Coleoptera, Family Cerambycidae;  
longhorned beetles, roundheaded borers  
Native pest

**Host plants:** Crabapple and apple are preferred, but mountainash, hawthorn, serviceberry, and cotoneaster are also susceptible.

**Description:** Male beetles have antennae almost as long as their body, while females have shorter antennae. They are 15–20 mm long and bright white, except for three longitudinal brown stripes. Mature larvae are approximately 30 mm long and creamy white.

**Life history:** Adults are active from June to September, depositing eggs in slits cut in the base of trees. Larvae feed under bark for one year and then bore into the wood. Two or more years are required for the completion of the life cycle.

**Overwintering:** Larvae in galleries.

**Damage symptoms:** Adults leave circular exit holes at the base of trees. Frass can be seen on bark or at tree bases. Heavily infested trees dieback and may be killed within one growing season.

**Monitoring:** Look for adults on bark from June onward. Look for bark cracks and frass at the base of trees from June to September.

**Cultural control:** Water newly planted trees until roots are established. Maintain tree vitality with standard cultural practices.

**Chemical control:** Spray a residual insecticide on the base of newly planted trees in June, if adults are active.

**Biological control:** No natural enemies reported. Only woodpeckers impact population numbers.

**Plant mortality risk:** High, if plants are not healthy.

**Biorational pesticides:** None

**Conventional pesticides:** chlorpyrifos (nursery only), permethrin



Roundheaded appletree borer adult. (220)

Photo: John Davidson



Roundheaded appletree borer larva. (221)

Photo: John Davidson