

A HEALTHY TREE is a HAPPY TREE

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Boxelder Bugs

Description: The boxelder bug is found throughout North Carolina. Besides boxelder tree seeds, this insect has been recorded as feeding on apple, ash, buckeye, cactus, geranium, grape, honeysuckle, lilac, linden, oak, peach, plum, spirea, strawberry, and tulip. Adult boxelder bugs emerge from their overwintering shelters in March and early April and feed for about 2 weeks before mating. These insects prefer sunny areas and, therefore, are found most abundantly on trees in a southern exposure and on sides of buildings facing south.

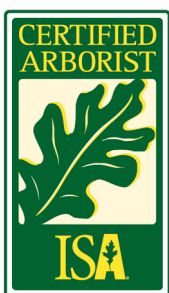


Symptoms: The boxelder bug is a sap-sucking insect with piercing-sucking mouthparts. Normally the insects cause little or no damage to host trees or to plants in homes, which they often enter. While the bugs can and do bite people, this is very unusual. Rarely the insect may kill twigs or leaves of boxelder and ash trees and they can occasionally cause deformed fruit (apples, cherry, strawberry, pear, peach, plum, grape).

Control: You may want to supplement non-chemical methods with an insecticide treatment around the exterior of your home, especially if large number of boxelder bugs are present and/or you have a history of boxelder bug invasions. The best time to spray is late summer and fall when boxelder bugs are first clustering around the outside of buildings.

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