

Ambrosia Beetle



Figure 1 larva with fungus inside wood



Figure 2 various adult beetles

Ambrosia beetles attack most species of pine and hardwood trees. They severely infest weakened and dying trees, green logs and unseasoned lumber. Ambrosia beetle attacks to green sawlogs and lumber may result in considerable degrade and strength reduction.

The adults are a dark reddish brown and about a quarter inch long. Neither the adults or larvae feed on wood but on a fungus the beetles carry into the tree and culture in the galleries. The adults bore into sapwood or heartwood of logs and lumber, making pinsized holes.

Which are stained by the fungus. The females lay eggs in small clusters in the tunnel, and the developing larvae excavate tiny cells extending from the tunnel parallel to the grain of wood. Timber is not attacked unless the moisture content of wood is a least 48 percent. Seasoned lumber is not infested. Rapid utilization of cut timber and fast drying of lumber helps prevent damage.

The fungus is their sole source of nutrition.



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