

Commercial Horticulture

Special Alert

May 27, 2021

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Potential Big Time Trouble for *Thuja 'Green Giant'*

By: Stanton Gill

In the IPM Alert three weeks ago, we reported that one of the Lindgren traps that Andrew Ristvey and Richard Uva are maintaining for us in Federalsburg, Maryland on the Eastern Shore had a large number of **camphor shot borer** (*Cnestus mutilatus*) in the alcohol baited Lindgren trap. The camphor shot borer, *Cnestus* (used to be *Xylosandrus mutilatus*) is much bigger than the ambrosia beetles we have been tracking and reporting on over the last two months. The ones that have been the big concern include the granulate ambrosia beetle, *Xylosandrus crassiusculus*, and *Xylosandrus germanus*. Heather Zindash, The Soulful Gardener, found camphor shot borer in Washington D.C. three years ago, and we started picking up occasional adults in our baited Lindgren traps in 2019 – 2021, but generally, just a few. The larger count capture, three weeks ago on the Eastern Shore, caught our attention.

On Monday (May 24), Conor O'Neil, Hidden Lane Residential Landscapes, sent us pictures of a *Thuja 'Green Giant'* that had large branches dying back. The landscape holding site with the Green Giant plants is in Virginia, but Conor receives our IPM Alerts and knew we were interested in seeing unusual insect related problems on plants. The trees had been purchased from a wholesale nursery in Virginia in April of 2021. The *Thuja* Green Giants are still in their holding yard under trickle irrigation. Conor commented in an email that 2 out of 10 of them have dieback of about the top 2'. It appears that all of them have the borers. He also sent close-up pictures of round holes in

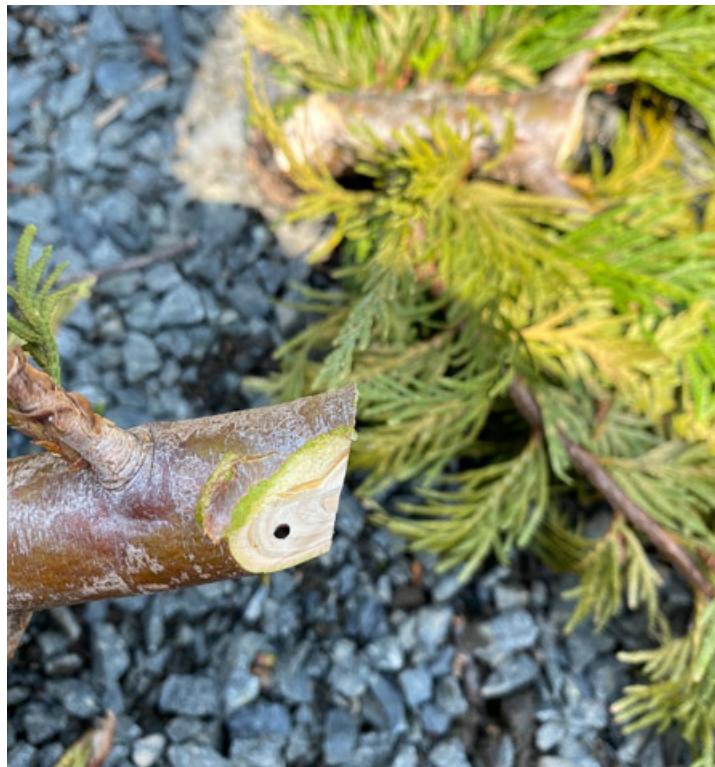
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extension.umd.edu/ipm

If you work for a commercial horticultural business in the area, you can report insect, disease, weed or cultural plant problems (**include location and insect stage**) found in the landscape or nursery to
sgill@umd.edu

the branches. I asked him to extract the larvae or adults for ID and suggested since he was in Virginia to get the sample immediately to Eric Day, an entomologist, Department of Entomology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Eric sent me a copy of the ID report, and it confirmed the holes in the *Thuja* branches were inhabited by camphor shot borer (*Cnestus mutilatus*). Like the other ambrosia beetles we have seen over the last 21 years, once the beetle is in the heartwood of the tree, there is little you can do. Preventative sprays of synthetic pyrethroids can keep adults from drilling into the branches. The problem is pyrethroids need to be directed on susceptible trees and not sprayed all over the landscape, killing non-target insects. Systemic insecticides do not really provide the protection that is needed.

This finding of *Thuja* being attacked by camphor shot borer was in Virginia, but since we do have this ambrosia beetle active in Maryland, we need your input from the field. If you find *Thuja* Green Giants with branches dying and find holes similar to the ones shown, please submit samples to us as the CMREC lab. You can submit samples to MDA in Annapolis. Send close-up pictures of the holes and the beetles to Sgill@umd.edu. If you find them, put samples in alcohol in small vials. Samples can be sent to University of Maryland Extension, CMREC, 11975 Homewood Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042.



Monitor *Thuja* 'Green Giant' trees closely for camphor shot borers and the holes caused by these beetles

Photos: Conor O'Neill, Hidden Lane Residential Landscapes

Conferences (CDC guidelines for Covid-19 may cause changes to the programs below.)

Pest Management Recertification Program (limited **in-person** program)

June 3, 2021

Location: Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD

June On-line IPM Scout Training (June 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 12 to 1:30 P.M.)

Registration Link: <https://mnlga.memberclicks.net/IPMScoutTraining#/>

[Program agenda](#)

Eastern Shore Procrastinators Pesticide Conference on June 8, 2021

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-eastern-shore-procrastinators-pesticide-conference-tickets-150763609013>

Once the attendees pay via evenbrite, they will be emailed the link to the zoom conference.

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