



City of Greeley Forestry Program

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Greeley, Colorado 80634
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M-F 6:30am to 3:30pm



Lilac/Ash Borer (Adult)

LILAC/ASH BORER UDATES

The Lilac/Ash Borer traps were placed on April 9, 2010. The traps are located in common areas at Kelly Farm and Eagle Ridge. The traps were viewed on April 19th, on April 26th, and again on May 7th. To date, we have not observed any borers in the traps. In light of this information, we are recommending spraying as has been done in past years. Spray should be applied prior to May 17th.

For the last few years, and in a handful of specific areas of Greeley, we have observed a significant increase in activity by the Lilac/Ash Borer (*Podosesia syringae*). More specifically, we have observed major damage to young Ash trees (typically those less than 8” in diameter). Insects like the Lilac/Ash Borer become problems in part due to poor tree stock, poor planting methods, poor maintenance (e.g., too much or too little water), and mono-cultures which are large numbers of the same tree planted in close proximity to one another.

The insect is actually a clear-winged moth that resembles a wasp. They feed primarily in the trunks and larger limbs of Lilacs and Ash trees. Larvae tunnel into the trees in the spring and emerge from the tree as adults the following season. When the adults emerge, the females lay their eggs on the trees, and the cycle begins all over again. The best time to control the insect is when the adults have emerged and are laying eggs, which is typically the last part of April to the first part of May.

A list of licensed pesticide applicators in Greeley can be found on our website. If you have younger Ash trees on your property, we recommend that you protect your investment by spraying to prevent the Ash borer from causing damage to your trees.

Feel free to call our office at 970-339-2436 or check our website where we will post the program information. The information will be titled “Lilac/Ash Borer Updates.”