Spring 2008

Tree Times

Recognizing and Combating Pine Bark Beetles

tree business."

ne of those issues that periodically raises its ugly head is traumatic for pine trees as well as pine tree owners. Infestations of southern pine beetles and their sometimes equally destructive cousins can

be not unlike a bibli-

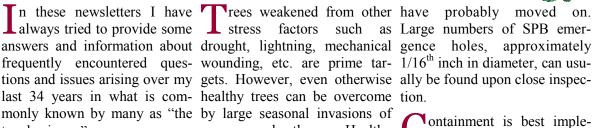
cal plague when they invade host stands of large established pines. Very often these pines **_** and unless pitch constitute important visual and tubes are present, noise privacy screening for a the first generally property. And while pines may recognized sign of not be the best choice for such trouble is a brownscreening, it's also true that you ing of the needles have what you have and you in the upper candon't want to lose it.

Outhern pine beetles, turpentine beetles, and ips beetles can all be implicated in the systematic decline and death of important stands of pine trees. However, maybe the most prevalent one in this area is the

southern pine beetle (SPB), which also can be the vector for the equally destructive Blue Stain Fungus in

'host trees'. **SPBs**

dio homing signal.



beetles. Healthy trees will usually put up a fight, attempting to repel the hostiles "pitching out" the attackers with plugs of resinous gummy sap. Here the scebecomes nario much like a medieval siege against the

castle walls, a standoff in which the

outcome is uncertain.

Pine Beetle pitch tubes

In most cases opy of a tree. Unfortunately, by the time this becomes evident, the cow is usually out gate and the only

reasonable response then is containment of the spread. This is

because important pine bark beetles. whether SPB, Turpentine, or ips, will march down a row of conifers like a firestorm, going

> from one tree to the next.

are brown to black in color and Cometimes traces of sawdust about 3mm long. Initial SPB (frass) can be observed at attacks usually occur from mid- the base of trees under attack. trunk to the lower crown. After This residue can be the product the first arrival, pheromone and of a secondary opportunistic weak host attractants draw in pest called Ambrosia beetles. the mass attack not unlike a ra- Therefore, as stated above, at this point the initial attackers

Southern Pine Beetle

ontainment is best imple-✓ mented in two parts. First. the infected tree or trees, including stumps, must be cut down and removed. Beetles overwinter and lay their eggs in galleries in the wood tissue under the bark. If left, this nearby dead wood can be a launching pad for more damage. If trees are showing signs of partial or initial browning it is usually advisable to include them in the removal list since a reversal or 'cure' is possible but not likely.



Pine Beetle galleries under bark

art two of response is to treat adjacent still healthy (fully green) trees with insecticidal treatment. Because different beetle species will initially attack different places on the

trunk

and/or

primary branches an overall spray application of all wood tissue may be safest and work best.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Good Tips When	
Hiring Tree Trimmers	Pg. 2
Did You Know	Pg. 2
From My Journal: The Way We Were	Pg. 3
Newsletter Index	Pg. 4
It Couldn't Be Done	
Edgar Guest (1881-1959)	Pg. 4