

# Pest Profile



Photo credit: Marvin Smith, Bugguide.net

**Common Name:** Round-headed Appletree Borer

**Scientific Name:** *Saperda candida*

**Order and Family:** Coleoptera, Cerambycidae

**Size and Appearance:** Eggs can be tricky to spot because they are laid individually and in the bark slits. Once the eggs hatch, a yellow-white larva emerges and uses its black jaws to tunnel into the tree, feeding on sapwood and bark. The larvae feed for a year or more, overwintering in the winter. Once the larvae pupate, just under the surface of the tree, the pupa darkens as the transition to adult initiates. When the adult beetles emerge they are a light brown to brown, average-sized beetle with two prominent white stripes and antennae as long as their body.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	3-4mm	Eggs are a light cream color that changes to a rust brown color as they develop; eggs are deposited individually in slits of bark near the base of the tree; hatch in 15-20 days.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	3-25mm	Yellowish white body color with a dark brown head; black jaws; roundish broader area behind head; cylindrical body shape; legless; 6 instars; develop for 2-3 years in tree.
<b>Adult</b>	10-21mm	Light brown color with two prominent white stripes across its back; antennae same length as body.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		In late winter to early spring they pupate in a chamber near the bark; pupate for 19-30 days, then emerge as adults.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Larvae and adult: Chewing

**Host plant/s:** The insect feeds on shrubs and trees of the rose family. Some specific observed hosts are apple, pear, quince, plum, cherry, peach, cotoneaster, hawthorn, mountain-ash, serviceberry, and crabapple.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Larvae can cause significant damage when their tunnels cause the base of trees to break. Larvae can push frass (excrement) out of their tunnel hole, creating sawdust looking piles near the base of the tree. Larvae can girdle young trees. The adults feed on leaves and twigs but are minor pests. Destruction is particularly noticeable in younger trees. The roundheaded appletree borer will attack healthy and unhealthy trees.

#### References:

Agnello, A. M. (1999). Apple-Boring Beetles. Tree Fruit Crops, Cornell Cooperative Extension. Cornell University. Retrieved February 27, 2017 from: <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/bitstream/handle/1813/43070/apple-boring-beetles-FS-NYSIPM.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Barrett, B. A. (n.d.). Insect Borers of Fruit Trees. Roundheaded appletree borer. University of Missouri Extension. Retrieved February 16, 2017 from: <http://extension.missouri.edu/p/g7190>

Cranshaw, W. (2004). Chapter nine: Trunk and Branch Borers – Roundheaded Appletree Borer. In *Garden insects of North America: The ultimate guide to backyard bugs*. (pp. 482). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Murray, T. (2005, August 31). Species *Saperda candida* - Round-headed Apple Tree Borer. Retrieved April 30, 2016, from: <http://bugguide.net/node/view/30033>