

Borer beetles beset palo verde trees

Have you had the distressing experience of having a prized palo verde tree suddenly turn brown and die? There are several pests which may be causing this to happen.

Palo verde borer beetles are being reported in the Phoenix area. These beetles are seen in areas of native desert where palo verde trees are common.

The beetle is two to four inches long, three-fourths-inch wide, vary in color from reddish-brown to black and have long antennae. They are night fliers and are attracted to light.

The larvae of the beetle are in the ground at the base of the tree and feed on its roots. From June through August, the adult beetles emerge from the ground, leaving one-inch diameter holes. They usually emerge at night or in the evening.

The female beetles often re-enter their holes to lay their eggs, thus starting cycle over again.

The whitish larvae is three to four inches long and about one inch round.

The beetles have been known to attack fruit, nut and other shade trees. Control attempts have not been encouraging

trees. Signs of trouble are sticky leaves, abnormal loss of leaves, or leaves flecked with small yellow spots and dark spots. These symptoms could mean mites, spittlebugs of leaf hoppers. Eriophyid mites will feed on



a desert place

Natural beauty
through preservation
Presented by:
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE of the
Cave Creek Improvement Association

because once you notice the tree browning, it is often too late and too much damage has already been done to the tree roots.

Diazinon sprayed onto the soil under the tree and into the exit holes may be helpful.

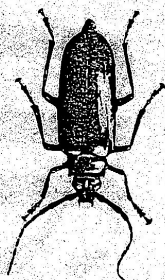
There are other pests that affect the foliage of palo verde

the nodes of small palo verde branches, causing large growths on the branch. These pests can be controlled by Diazinon and you can increase the effectiveness by adding surfactant or wetting agent to the spray.

The powder post beetle is a small (one-half-inch long), blackish beetle which enters the

upper and outer stems of the palo verde, and hollows them out. A heavy infestation will spoil the appearance of the tree and will eventually kill it. Again, control is difficult. Insecticides may work. Infested dead limbs should be pruned off and sulfur or tree paint applied to the cut.

For more information on palo verde trees, consult a nurseryman who is knowledgeable with desert plants, or call or write to: Cooperative Extension Service of University of Arizona, 4341 East Broadway, Phoenix 85040, phone 255-4456.



Palo verde borer beetle