



WELCOME TO KINGS ONLINE PLANT DOCTOR

LEMON TREE BORER

Oemona hirta

A native pest, the larvae are known as lemon-tree borer and can cause problems to a wide range of exotic and native hardwoods, but is generally associated with citrus trees.

The adults are longhorn beetles that vary in colour from red/brown to black. The larvae tunnel into trees and cause 2 main types of damage. For most of the year they tunnel into the main stem and larger branches, but in December they dig into smaller twigs, causing these branches to die.

Branches that are dying back are often a sign that borer is active in the branch. Inspect thoroughly looking for small holes and a sawdust like substance called Frass.

PREVENTION

The adult beetles are active through spring, summer, and autumn. Where possible, prune citrus trees and other susceptible trees in winter to avoid attracting the beetle. Beetles are attracted to the smell of the wood when trees are pruned.

When harvesting fruit from citrus trees or if tidying up branches while the beetle is active, make a clean cut and then seal with [Grosafe Organic Pruning Paste](#).

NATURAL TREATMENT

For a natural option spray [Nature's Way Pyrethrum](#) into the holes until they are drenched. The Borer can also be killed by running a guitar string or a fine wire into the holes. Repeat if you notice fresh frass.

OTHER TREATMENT

Use the nozzle provided to spray [Kiwicare No Borer Injector Spray](#) into the small holes made by the borer. Repeat if you notice more frass.

Prune back any badly infected branches and dispose of in the rubbish or burn infected wood. Seal pruning cuts with [Grosafe Organic Pruning Paste](#) to prevent borer entering the new cut.

When using sprays and chemicals always read the label and follow instructions carefully. Spray in the evening to avoid harming beneficial insects.



LEMON TREE BORER PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

Shop the Kings online store for all your gardening needs



KIWCARE NO BORER AEROSOL

Kills lemon tree borer & prevents reinfestation. Comes with nozzle for easy injection. Also controls house borer.



GROSAFE ORGANIC PRUNE N PASTE



Everything you need!

FOR MORE ADVICE
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