

How to Manage Pests

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How to Manage Pests

UC Pest Management Guidelines

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Fig

Carpenterworm

Scientific Name: *Prionoxystus robiniae*
 (Reviewed 7/06, updated 7/06)



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DESCRIPTION OF THE PEST

Carpenterworm larvae are woodboring insects and attack many species of deciduous fruit trees. [Eggs](#) are laid in crevices in the bark; the larvae hatch out by boring through the bottom of the egg directly into the wood. Larvae are cream colored with a brown head capsule and have conspicuous spots surrounding the scattered hairs on the body. They grow to about 2 inches long. The [adult carpenterworm](#) is a large, gray and brown, mottled moth with a [wing span](#) of about 2.25 inches. Females are heavy bodied and cannot fly more than a few yards. They have one generation per year with the adults emerging from [pupation](#) in late April through June.

DAMAGE

Carpenterworm larvae burrow in the cambium layer of the tree and eventually girdle the [limb](#), causing it to die. Active galleries can be recognized by copious amounts of sap and sawdust that result from the larvae cleaning out their burrows.

MANAGEMENT

Carpenterworms infest several species of native hosts in river bottom areas. Therefore, orchards planted near riparian habitats are more prone to attack. Because adults cannot fly very far, the infestation is slow to spread through the orchard. Prune infested wood judiciously to slow down the spread of the insect. Maintain trees in vigorous growth to help them tolerate damage longer.

Commercial preparations of the [entomophagous nematode](#) *Steinernema feltiae* (*Neoplectana carpocapsae*), such as Scanmask, have been found to give good control of the carpenterworm. Follow supplier's directions for application of their particular preparation.

PRECAUTIONS**PUBLICATION**

UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Fig

UC ANR Publication 3447

Insects and Mites

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