



Greater Peach Tree Borer



The greater peach tree borer (*Synanthedon exitosa*) is a moth that can cause severe damage to fruit trees (primarily peaches, apricots, cherry, and plums) if left unmanaged. The adults are moths with transparent wings. The larvae are pinkish-white caterpillars that bore into the trunks where they feed just under the bark in the cambium. The larvae primarily attack tree trunks at or below the soil line, but may enter trunks up to 12 inches above the ground. Extensive larval feeding can girdle and kill trees.

Month	Tasks	Observations & Dates Completed
March	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using a garden tool such as a hoe, cultivate soil under tree up to 4 inches to kill overwintering larva (as an alternative, this is also a good time to run any avian allies such as chickens or ducks through the orchard for pest control!) Clear weeds and groundcover at least 3" away from tree. After pruning is complete, apply dormant oil to base of tree trunk. 	
April	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Find the entry holes near base of trunk and stab individual larvae with a length of wire inserted into their burrows. Consider beneficial insect release of trichogramma wasp to parasitize borer eggs. Plant garlic chives (or any allium family) around tree base Apply mating disruptor bands on trees to reduce moth populations If persistent pest issue continues, consider Bt spray application, twice during the blooming period, at least 7 days apart. 	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply parasitic nematodes directly to the soil via water around the trunk or injected directly into borer holes with large syringes. It's best to apply these microscopic parasites in the evening or on a cloudy day to avoid drying out. Research has shown that the carpocapsae nematodes may be the most effective. 	



Month	Tasks	Observations & Dates Completed
June - July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spray neem oil on trunk. Or add diatomaceous earth or plaster of paris to a trunk whitewash. 	
Aug - Sept	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to spray neem oil on trunk. Or add diatomaceous earth or plaster of paris to a trunk whitewash. Find the entry holes near base of trunk and stab individual larvae with a length of wire inserted into their burrows. Apply parasitic nematodes directly to the soil via water around the trunk or injected directly into borer holes with large syringes. It's best to apply these microscopic parasites in the evening or on a cloudy day to avoid drying out. Research has shown that the carpocapsae nematodes may be the most effective. 	

Resources Used:

[Monthly Orchard Task List](#) — [Peach, Apple, and Other Fruit Tree Borer](#) — [Pheromone Mating Disruptors for Orchard Pests](#) — [Bt Orchard Sprays](#)
[Neem Oil Spray](#) — [Greater Peach Tree Borer - Giving Grove](#) — [Peachtree Borer - Arbico Organics](#)