

RECENT QUESTIONS TO GLOUCESTER MASTER GARDENERS

WHAT IS CAUSING DAMAGE TO OAK TREES ESPECIALLY RED OAKS?

SYMPTOMS? - Small holes in the bark and what appears to be sawdust on the sides of the trees.

ANSWER – RED OAK BORER

The larvae are the borers and do the damage in the first two years, before reaching adult stage.



Borer Exit Hole and discoloration. Borer frass (waste) looks like sawdust and can accumulate at base of tree.

NATURAL CONTROL Woodpeckers can reduce the borer populations by 40-80%.

CULTURAL CONTROL - Remove infected trees.

HOSTS – Red Oaks are the most common hosts, but the borers will attack white and pin oaks also.



Adult stage of borer.

Slivers are signs of borers. Woodpeckers have attacked the larvae.

Information from the United States Department of Agriculture Forestry Service.