

Bronze Birch Borer Management Methods

- Do not plant birch where they will be exposed to heat stress, such as the south and west sides of buildings.
- Avoid planting white-barked birch species (e.g., *Betula jacquemontii*, *B. pendula*), which are especially susceptible to bronze birch borer.
- If planting birch, consider using *B. alleghaniensis*, *B. lenta*, or *B. nigra*. Borers attack all birch, but these species appear to be less susceptible in California.
- Plant at the most suitable location, such as the east side of buildings where heat stress is typically less severe.
- Apply mulch to retain soil moisture and keep roots cooler.
- Provide sufficient irrigation, such as deep watering about every 1 to 2 weeks during prolonged dry weather.
- Do not fertilize birch unless nutrient deficiency has been confidently diagnosed as the cause of poor growth.
- Regularly inspect birch for bark swelling and wet stains from April through September; promptly prune off these borer-infested limbs and remove hazardous limbs whenever they appear. Otherwise, do not prune birch from April through August, the season when adult borers fly and are attracted to fresh pruning wounds.
- Promptly remove dead and dying birch. Chip the wood or cut it into logs and solarize it under clear plastic to prevent adults from emerging and infesting nearby birch.

Adapted from Svihra and Duckles 1999.