

LAUREL WILT DISEASE

HARRINGTONIA LAURICOLA

Hosts and Range

Laurel wilt disease is caused by a fungus, *Harringtonia lauricola*, that is spread by the redbay ambrosia beetle, *Xyleborus glabratus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) and potentially native ambrosia beetles. The disease kills redbay, sassafras, swampbay, pondspice, pondberry, camphor, spicebush, avocado and other plants in the laurel family. The redbay ambrosia beetle is native to Asia. Since its initial detection in Georgia in 2002, this wilt disease has spread to 12 states, including Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky.



from entrance holes. A single beetle can vector enough fungus to kill a host tree within a month of the initial attack.

Firewood

The best method of controlling laurel wilt is to prevent the introduction of the disease. Since the beetle can live in cut wood, infested wood debris and firewood should not be moved long distances (greater than 50 miles). If traveling for recreational activities, we recommend

leaving firewood at home and buying local firewood at your destination. There is currently no known method to stop the spread of laurel wilt disease completely. Once infestation in a tree is detected, the tree should be cut down as soon as possible and then chipped and burned

**DON'T MOVE
FIREWOOD.org**

What's In Your Firewood?

Firewood movement is a major pathway for the introduction of destructive invasive pests to new ecosystems. By using local or heat treated firewood, the public can prevent the accidental movement of these damaging pests.

on location. If burning is not possible, the tree should be cut down, chipped and left on site. A tarpaulin or other type of plastic covering can be placed over the chipped debris for an extended period of time to reduce the emergence and survival of the pest.

Additional Information

<http://southernforesthealth.net/diseases/laurel-wilt>

Identification and Symptoms

The redbay ambrosia beetle adult is approximately 1/16-inch long and dark brown to black. The beetle carries fungal spores on its body and bores into the host tree creating galleries (tunnel-like paths). Beetles feed on the fungus, which grows in the galleries. The tree responds to the fungus by blocking water transport vessels, causing the tree to wilt. Infested sapwood will have black or purple streaking. Depending on the species, the foliage may wilt and remain on the tree (redbay and swampbay) or fall from the tree (sassafras). Although not always present, small, round

entrance holes may be found on infested stems. Toothpick-like tubes of sawdust may protrude



Toothpick tubes extrude from a redbay tree infested with the redbay ambrosia beetle.s



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