POPLAR BORER

This is a long-horned beetle that most often affects Columnar Aspen, Balsam Poplar and Willow plants.

In late June adult females cut notches into the bark where they lay 1 or 2 eggs. Young larvae mine into the bark for the rest of the summer and remain there for the winter. The following spring, they enter the sap and heartwood, where they feed for two years before maturing and exiting the tree.

Sap flowing down the stems and staining the bark, and boring dust exuding from holes, are the first signs that a tree is infested. If the bark is removed, larvae and their galleries can be seen. They typically tunnel in larger branches and in the main stem down to the root collar.

To control Poplar Borer, you can locate the holes on the tree (where sap is leaking out) and insert a long piece of fine gauge wire, in an attempt to pierce the larvae that are feeding. Sevin, Ambush or Beneficial Nematodes can be sprayed into the holes as well in an attempt to kill larvae.

To control adults, in June or August you can attempt to spray bored holes and surrounding areas of trunk with Sevin or a Permethrin based insecticide such as Ambush or Doktor Doom House and Garden. This will assist in controlling adults attempting to lay eggs.

POPLAR WILLOW BORER

Willow is the preferred host of the Poplar Willow Borer and poplar can also be affected (NOT Swedish Aspen). Poplar and Willow Borer typically attacks stems that are between 1-4” in width.
In summer adult weevils chew holes in bark, then lay eggs. Eggs will hatch, and larvae will mine extensive tunnels that show as irregular splits and holes in the bark through which light sap and moist red-brown and white shavings exude. Unlike with Poplar Borer, the weevil prefers smaller stems.

Piles of shavings around the base of the stems will be evident. Note that sap flow from the Poplar Willow Borer is not as heavy as with Poplar Borer.

If your tree is infested with the Poplar Borer in early June and August spray affected trees with Ambush or Doktor Doom House and Garden. This will help to eliminate active adults prior to them laying eggs.