



## GOLD SPOTTED OAK BORER

*Agrilus auroguttatus*

The goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) is a buprestid beetle native to oak forests of Southeastern Arizona. Since 2002, GSOB has contributed to the mortality of more than 80,000 trees over approximately 4,900 km<sup>2</sup>, and this infested area continues to increase as the GSOB population grows and spreads. This is just one of many forest pests that are moved to un-infested forests by humans moving firewood.



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### Identifying Features:

GSOB eggs are about 1 mm in width and are oval shaped with a flat bottom. Mature larvae are about 18 mm long and 3 mm wide. They possess two pincher-like spines at the tip of the abdomen.

The adult gold spotted oak borer is dull dark metallic green in color with three characteristic yellow spots on each forewing. It is about a centimeter long.

### Damage:

Feeding larvae kill patches of cambium, which eventually causes tree death.

When adult development is complete, the adults chew an emergence hole through the bark and exit the tree. GSOB seems to prefer **red oaks**, although it will occasionally feed on **intermediate oaks**, and **almost never on white oaks**.



Tom Coleman, USDA Forest Service

#### Information Sources

The Goldspotted Oak Borer. 21 June, 2012.

[http://cizr.ucr.edu/goldspotted\\_oak\\_borer.html](http://cizr.ucr.edu/goldspotted_oak_borer.html)

#### Image Sources

Goldspotted Oak Borer. 02 March 2011. <<http://www.forestryimages.org>>

Goldspotted Oak Borer, 02 March 2011. <<http://www.forestryimages.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5432267>>

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