

The apple tree borer is very common throughout the United States and Canada. For information specific to your region, contact your local Giving Grove partner.

## What is Apple Tree Borer?

An apple tree borer is a pest common to apple trees in the United States and Canada and can even be found on other trees such as pear, oak, and hickory. The borer is the larvae of an adult beetle that is metallic green and approximately 1/2 inch long. The adults typically begin laying their eggs under bark scales or in bark crevices on the south and west sides of the main trunk and larger branches. The larvae bore into the bark, filling the hole behind them with feces and wood-shaving, and then feed on the tree. The tunnel they create can be 3 inches long or longer. It only takes 1-2 larvae to kill a young tree.



## How to control the Apple Tree Borer?

1. Wrap window screen around the tree trunk base. This will prevent the borers from having access to the tree bark.
2. Treat the tree with parasitic nematodes.
3. Use preventative bark sprays: pyrethrin or neem
4. Place diatomaceous earth (a naturally occurring soft, sedimentary rock crumbled into a fine powder) around the tree.



## For more information...

For more information about the apple tree borer, Michael Phillips' (author of "The Holistic Orchard") website or the website of your local extension agency.