

The rednecked cane borer is a beetle that infects brambles such as black raspberries and blackberries. The beetles attack foliage and the larvae cause galls that split the bark of the cane. For region-specific information, please contact your local Giving Grove partner.



Appearance:

- Adults are small metallic wood-boring beetles, with a reddish area behind the head.
- Larvae are white, legless, and flat behind the head
- Pupae are about the same length and shape as adults
- Overwinters in the canes as larvae

Damage:

- Adult feeding leaves irregular holes in the foliage.
- Larval feeding causes galls that can cause bark to split and stems to break.
- Infected canes can die or become weak and unable to support the fruit.
- Damaged canes are more susceptible to injury during the winter months.
- If left untreated, rednecked cane borers can infect a majority of the canes, significantly impacting yield.

Management & Treatment:

- Look for a faint brown-green line circling damaged stems in mid-summer. Snip below the affected areas.
- A slight S curve is an indication of infected canes; crippled leaves may surround the area.
- Split the cane at the gall to find overwintering grubs.
- Prune and destroy infested stems as soon as galls are visible.
- Look for adult beetles during daylight hours in early to mid June.
- Parasitic wasps and fungal diseases are effective controls.

References: NC State Extension, UK College of Agriculture, Food & Environment, Michael Phillips, "The Holistic Orchard", and Patrick L. Byers, Horticulture Specialist