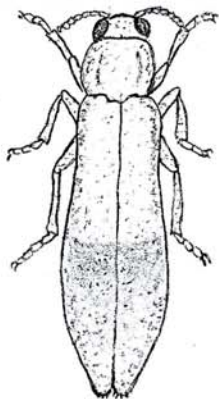


ROSE STEM GIRDLER

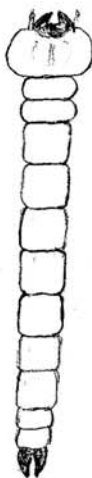
Agrilus aurichalceus (Redtenbacher)

DISTRIBUTION- The rose stem girdler is a European insect introduced into the US in infested roses from Holland and France around 1913. Damage from the insect became evident in Maine by 1994. The pest is now recorded from Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Utah.

DESCRIPTION- The small, slender, flattened adult beetle has a metallic coppery tinge and measures 4 to 6 mm (1/4") long. The white larva is long, narrow, somewhat flattened with the area behind the dark head enlarged, and measures 12 to 15 mm (5/8") long.



adult x10



larva x5.5



cane injury (bark
peeled away from gall),
exit hole x1

HOSTS- Rose and raspberry are attacked, with a preference for *Rosa rugosa* and *Rosa hugonis*.

DAMAGE- Larvae of the rose stem girdler bore beneath the bark of stems or canes, making a series of spiral galleries close together under the bark. As the larvae get bigger, they construct zigzag galleries under the bark or in the pith. Gall-like stem swellings from barely noticeable to twice the stem diameter may form near the base of canes where the larvae are working. Damaged canes will wilt, turn yellow and die back or break off. Adult feeding on the leaves may resemble grasshopper damage, but is minor.

LIFE CYCLE- Larvae overwinter in the canes and pupate in their burrows in the spring. Adults emerge from late May to July through elliptical or D-shaped exit holes in the canes. Eggs are laid singly on the bark of new canes near the ground and are covered with a viscous material which hardens giving the eggs a yellow, scale-like appearance. The eggs hatch in 4 to 14 days and young larvae bore into the cambium layer of canes where their spiral galleries are constructed. By late August or early September, larval activity is terminated and the larvae remain inactive until they pupate in the spring. A generation is usually completed in one year.

CONTROL- Sanitation in cleaning up dead and broken canes is the most effective control for the rose stem girdler. In Maine, infested canes may not begin to show yellowing or wilting until very late in the year. Consequently, the grower may not know there is a problem until the following spring when dead canes become visible, and the damage might be blamed on winter injury. Check the base of dead canes for the gall-like swellings or cut away the outer bark at the base to check for the spiral galleries of the girdler. Infested wilting canes should be cut out and destroyed as soon as discovered or, before May, infested dead canes should be cut low to the ground and along with broken canes already lying on the ground collected and destroyed. Treatment with general purpose insecticides labeled for beetles and roses may not be very effective, but if necessary, would have to be done through the period of adult activity (late May through July).

Before applying any pesticide, READ THE LABEL. Pesticides must be applied only as directed on the label to be in compliance with the law.