

Goldspotted Oak Borer



Photo: Beatriz Nobua-Behrmann, UC Cooperative Extension

What: *Agrilus auroguttatus*, “goldspotted oak borer” (GSOB)

Where: Native to south-east Arizona and invasive in California. Attacks coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*), canyon live oaks (*Quercus chrysolepis*), and California black oaks (*Quercus kelloggii*) in the urban forest and oak woodlands of southern California. GSOB can be spread long distances on infested firewood and has the potential to affect much of central and northern California’s oak forests.

When: First identified in San Diego County in 2004, but was probably there since the 1990’s, causing extensive tree mortality. Since then, it has spread on many satellite infestations throughout southern California.

How: GSOB larvae bore into the tree and feed beneath the bark while damaging the nutrient and water conducting tissues of the tree. Trees die after several years of injury inflicted by multiple generations of the beetle. Adults emerge from the tree leaving behind characteristic small D-Shaped exit holes in the bark. Impact varies between the three affected oak species and can consist of gray or brown coloring in the crown of the tree, thinning of the foliage, and branch dieback. GSOB can survive in down wood for up to two years and is easily spread to new areas through the movement of infested firewood.

Who: See www.gsob.org for further details and information.



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