

PEST: Sirex Woodwasp (*Sirex noctilio*)

BASIC PROFILE: Sirex is a woodwasp pest of numerous pine tree species. It can spread through movement of infested wood packing materials or cut wood. Needles of infested trees wilt and turn yellow then red-brown. Trunks and branches ooze resin. Sirex adults are 25 – 38mm (1 – 1 ½”) long, metallic blue-black with reddish legs and abdominal bands. Larvae (‘horntails’) tunnel into the branches and trunks where they feed and damage the tree, which finally dies. Adults emerge, leaving a round exit hole.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF conducts surveys for Sirex. Because no pheromone has been identified, survey is done visually, and by using non-specific traps. Survey usually is accomplished by selecting high-risk areas (with host trees) or through following up on shipments of infested material that may enter the state. There is a federal quarantine in place and there are federal protocols for survey and response. Control is accomplished using a nematode that attacks Sirex (biocontrol). There are a few native *Sirex* spp. in Louisiana separate from *Sirex noctilio*.



Photos: Dennis Haugen & Kent Loeffler