

Poplar borers have found their way to the boat club. They are native to Alberta and infest aspen poplars. Many aspen stands in SW Alberta have been affected over the years. Unfortunately, they also like Swedish Columnar Aspens and Tower Poplars which are aspen hybrids. The adults are large beetles that emerge in spring and summer, mate and lay eggs in poplar trunks. The eggs hatch into larvae (grubs) that tunnel into the trunks where they live for a couple of years. The larvae damage vital plumbing in the tree trunks and can kill a tree after a few years. As the larvae grow inside the tree, sawdust and feces (frass) comes out of the hole in the trunk and can pile up on the ground—see photos.

If adults are seen they can be removed or sprayed. Once the larvae tunnel inside the trunk, control is more difficult to impossible. Permethrin (synthetic pyrethroid) can be sprayed into the trunk holes and, if done soon enough, can kill the larvae. Once the larvae are deep inside the trunk control is not possible since systemic insecticides were taken off the market a few years ago.

Here are a few references and quotes

<https://www.stalberttoday.ca/local-news/check-borer-damage-on-poplars-1296146>

*If the tell-tale signs are noticed on the columnar aspens, Hole recommends spraying the trees with a product called Knockout[permethrin]. If possible, **spray the nozzle right into the holes the borer made in the bark** and keep checking to see if the sawdust mounds continue to grow.*

*"If you get them early, there is a decent chance to kill them, but **once they get into the green tissue beneath the bark, it weakens the tree and they snap off in storms,**"*

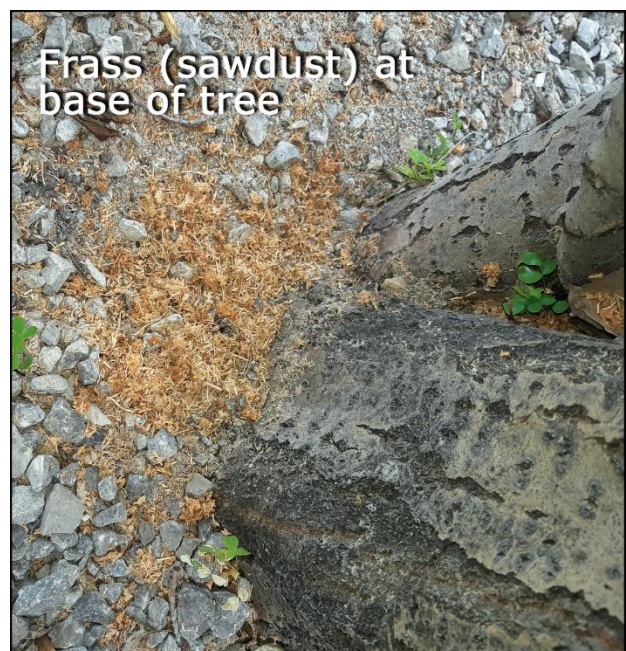
Knockout contains **permethrin**. Products containing permethrin are available at garden centres and hardware stores.

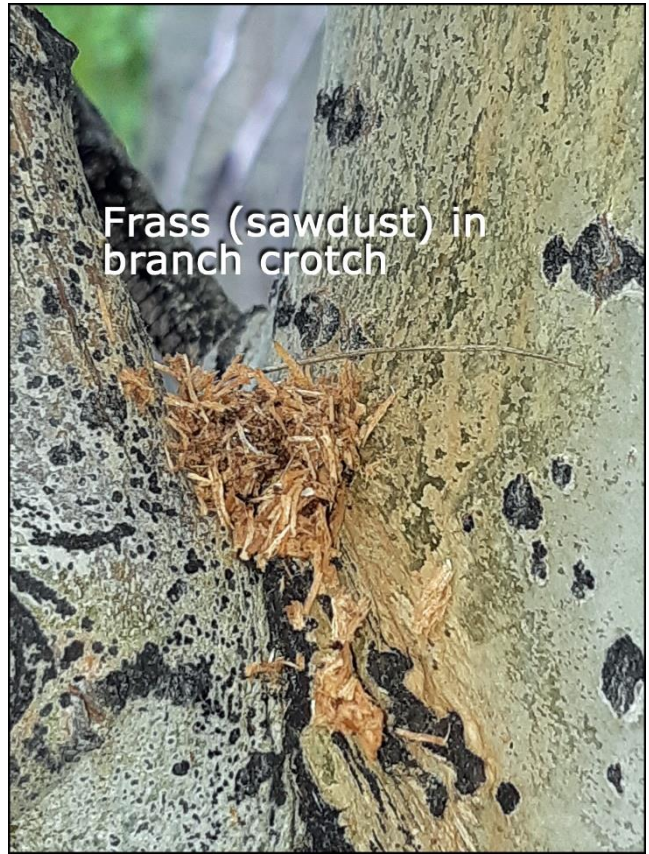
<https://www.insectidentification.org/insect-description.asp?identification=Poplar-Borer-Beetle>

<https://salisburygreenhouse.com/poplar-borer/>

<https://utahpests.usu.edu/ipm/ornamental-pest-guide/arthropods/wood-borers/poplar-borer>

The first four photos were taken at the boat club on June 27 and July 2, 2020





These photos of the adult beetles were taken off the internet.

