Wanted: Location of Soapberry Borer Infestations in Texas

Texas A&M Forest Service is attempting to determine the current distribution of the soapberry borer in Texas. The soapberry borer, *Agrilus prionurus*, is an invasive wood-boring beetle recently introduced from Mexico that has been attacking and killing western soapberry trees in various counties of Texas. If you spot dead or dying western soapberry trees, please report the following information to Dr. Ron Billings at rbillings@tfs.tamu.edu. If possible, attach digital photos of the bark chips, larval galleries, D-shaped exit holes or other signs of attack, together with a close-up photo of the tree’s leaves, so we can confirm the identity of the pest. Please see the attached descriptions if you are uncertain how to identify western soapberry or the damage this flatheaded wood borer causes. Thanks for your cooperation.

Name of observer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County of infestation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date first observed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address of infested tree(s), or GPS location if available :\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Attack signs noted: \_\_\_ Dead soapberry tree with bark removed

(check all observed) \_\_\_ Dying soapberry tree with some yellow or green leaves

 \_\_\_ Chips of bark at base of tree

 \_\_\_ White larvae beneath the bark

 \_\_\_ Winding galleries beneath the bark

 \_\_\_ “D”-shaped exit holes in bark

 \_\_\_ Sprouting of new leaves along trunk

 \_\_\_ Adult soapberry borers

Number of trees infested: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Average diameter of infested trees: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ inches

Are there uninfested soapberry trees (> 3” in DBH) at this site? \_\_\_ Yes; \_\_\_\_ No; \_\_\_\_ Don’t know

Return questionnaire by e-mail to rbillings@tfs.tamu.edu or regular mail to:

Dr. Ronald F. Billings

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