



# Redbay Ambrosia Beetle

*Xyleborus glabratus*



James Johnson, Georgia Forestry Commission, Bugwood.org

Redbay ambrosia beetles are native to Asia and attack and carry the laurel wilt disease fungus to healthy trees.



Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

Leaves wilt due to the fungal infection.



Michael C. Thomas, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org

Sawdust tubes are one of the first signs of redbay ambrosia beetles.

Redbay ambrosia beetles eat fungi that they farm in tunnels they have excavated in the trees.

## Appearance

A small blackish colored beetle about 2mm long with a V-shaped and pointed abdomen. Very similar in appearance to other ambrosia beetles.

The fungus that causes laurel wilt disease, *Harringtonia lauricola*, can kill a plant in as little as a few weeks.

Michael C. Thomas, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org

Albert (Bud) Mayfield, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Female beetles drill into healthy trees and infect it with laurel wilt fungus.



Ronald F. Billings, Texas A&M Forest Service, Bugwood.org

The fungal infection prevents water transport in the tree.



Andrew Derksen, USDA-APHIS, Bugwood.org

Beetle larvae feed on the fungus as they grow.



The fungus ultimately causes the death of the tree.



James Johnson, Georgia Forestry Commission, Bugwood.org

*Harringtonia lauricola* fungus infects the tree through galleries created by the female beetles.

All members of the Lauraceae are susceptible to this infection, including sassafras, bay trees, and avocado trees.



Albert (Bud) Mayfield, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

The first sign of infection is usually wilting and death of the top branches of a tree, progressing eventually to the whole plant.

To slow the spread of ambrosia beetles and laurel wilt it is important to destroy all infected trees on site and avoid transporting any wood between locations.