



GOLDSPOTTED OAK BORER INFESTED WOOD BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

BMPs to prevent the spread of GSOB through the movement of logs and firewood

OVERVIEW:

Transporting logs or firewood can introduce goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) into un-infested areas. These best management practices (BMPs) will help landowners and the firewood industry safely use wood from within a known GSOB-infested area. Be aware that firewood consumers are increasingly educated about the dangers of pest-infested wood.

Consumers may demand assurance that the wood does not contain GSOB and that BMPs were followed. Sellers are encouraged to include BMPs documentation in the bill of sale or permit required by California law (CA PEN § 384.5) when transporting or selling firewood. Neglecting to provide consumers a bill of sale could result in a fine, at minimum.

WHY ARE BMPs NEEDED?

Firewood from GSOB-killed oaks can harbor living GSOB larvae under its bark. GSOB larvae can still mature into adult beetles for over a year after a tree dies. These adults may emerge from the bark at any time from May to October, so wood from GSOB-killed oaks must not be moved out of an infested area until the wood has seasoned (dried out) for a minimum of two summers.

MANAGEMENT METHODS FOR INFESTED WOOD AND BARK:

METHODS	PROS	CONS	
Seasoning Uncontained Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost or labor involved Wood can be used as firewood after 2 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSOB can emerge from uncontained wood and infest neighboring trees Splitting dried wood is labor intensive Piled wood can be a fire hazard 	
Seasoning with Aluminum Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inexpensive method to contain and stop emerging GSOB from spreading Required equipment is easy to find; use fine mesh aluminum window screening Wood will not mold; wood can be used after 2 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening contains GSOB but does not kill it; without proper sealing there's a risk of beetles escaping Metal may be difficult to seal properly Metal may be susceptible to punctures by falling debris like pine cones and branches 	
Seasoning with Tarping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inexpensive method to contain and stop emerging GSOB from spreading No special equipment needed; use UV-resistant 6mil plastic tarps Wood can be used after 2 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tarp contains GSOB but does not kill it; regular maintenance and proper sealing is required to prevent beetles from escaping Wind can tear or lift buried edges Non-UV tarp will degrade in sun Wood may become moldy 	
Grinding/Chipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSOB won't survive grinding to <3 inches Chips can be used on-site as mulch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expensive specialized equipment and handling services required Chips can contribute to fire hazards; check with local fire agency for guidance 	
Debarking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debarked wood (stripped all the way back to the sapwood) is free of GSOB and can be safely sold and/or moved long distances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor intensive; can be difficult to accomplish on "green" wood from recently killed trees Bark still harbors GSOB and has to be treated (seasoned, chipped, tarped, or screened) to prevent spread 	

For more information visit www.GSOB.org and www.firewood.ca.gov

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GUIDE TO HANDLING INFESTED BARK & INTACT WOOD

