

Forest Health Alert

Sirex Wood Wasp

(*Sirex noctilio*)



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Sirex wood wasp (*Sirex noctilio*) is a native of Europe. Recently this insect was discovered in central New York State. Sirex wood wasp infests a variety of pine trees including red pine and loblolly pine. In addition to damaging trees by chewing galleries that destroy the cambium layer, the wood wasps carry a fungus that infects the trees and causes additional harm.

This pest is considered a serious threat to Delaware's forests. Adults can fly many miles, and Sirex wood wasp has already been detected in Pennsylvania. Loblolly pine is the mainstay of Delaware's forest products industry, especially in the southern half of the state, and this tree is believed to be a favorite host to *Sirex noctilio*.

An early detection survey was developed in 2005 to address this threat. In a cooperative effort among the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, the Forest Service and Plant Industries Sections within the Delaware Department of Agriculture, and the USDA Forest Service, specially-designed traps were placed in susceptible forest stands throughout the state. Traps are designed to attract *Sirex noctilio* if it is already in the area. Early detection of this insect, should it arrive in Delaware, will allow for a quicker, more effective response to this new pest. To date, *Sirex noctilio* has not been found in Delaware.



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