Carpenterworms
FACT SHEET

GREEN DROP Tree Care

What They Are:

Carpenterworms (Prionoxystus robiniae) are the largest wood-boring caterpillar that damage hardwood trees in the prairies. They primarily attack poplars and green ash trees, but also oaks, elms, cottonwoods, willows, and locusts.

The carpenterworms tunnel in the trunk and main branches, feeding on the sapwood and leaving sawdust (frass), often causing structural weakness. They rarely kill trees, but they do damage them and leave them susceptible to other insects and diseases.

Life Cycle:

The capenterworm larvae turns into the carpenterworm moth. Eggs are laid in clusters of 2-6 or in larger quantities of up to 200-1000, typically in bark cracks or near wounds of their chosen host tree from late spring to mid summer (May through July). The carpenterworm larvae can live for 2-4 years feeding.

In late spring, the carpenterworm then pupate in their tunnels. You can sometimes see the papery pupal casing sticking out of holes in the bark, this long-term indicates infestation.

The adult carpenterworm moth emerges, leaving their empty pupal casing behind. The adult males begin mating soon after emerging between May to June, the females carry the eggs, and the cycle continues.



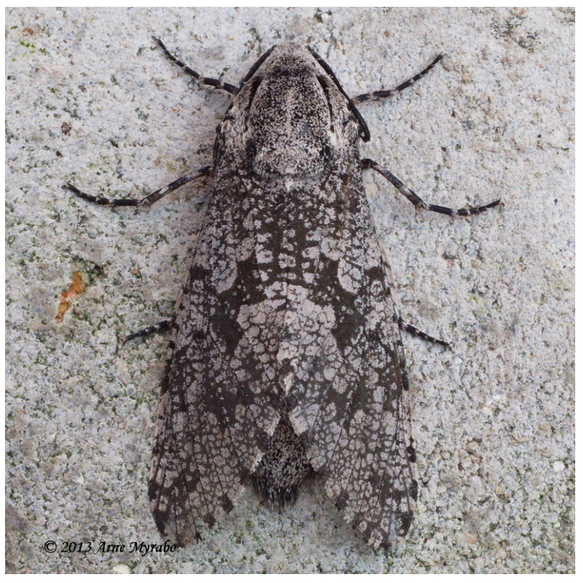
Eggs



Larva



Pupal Case



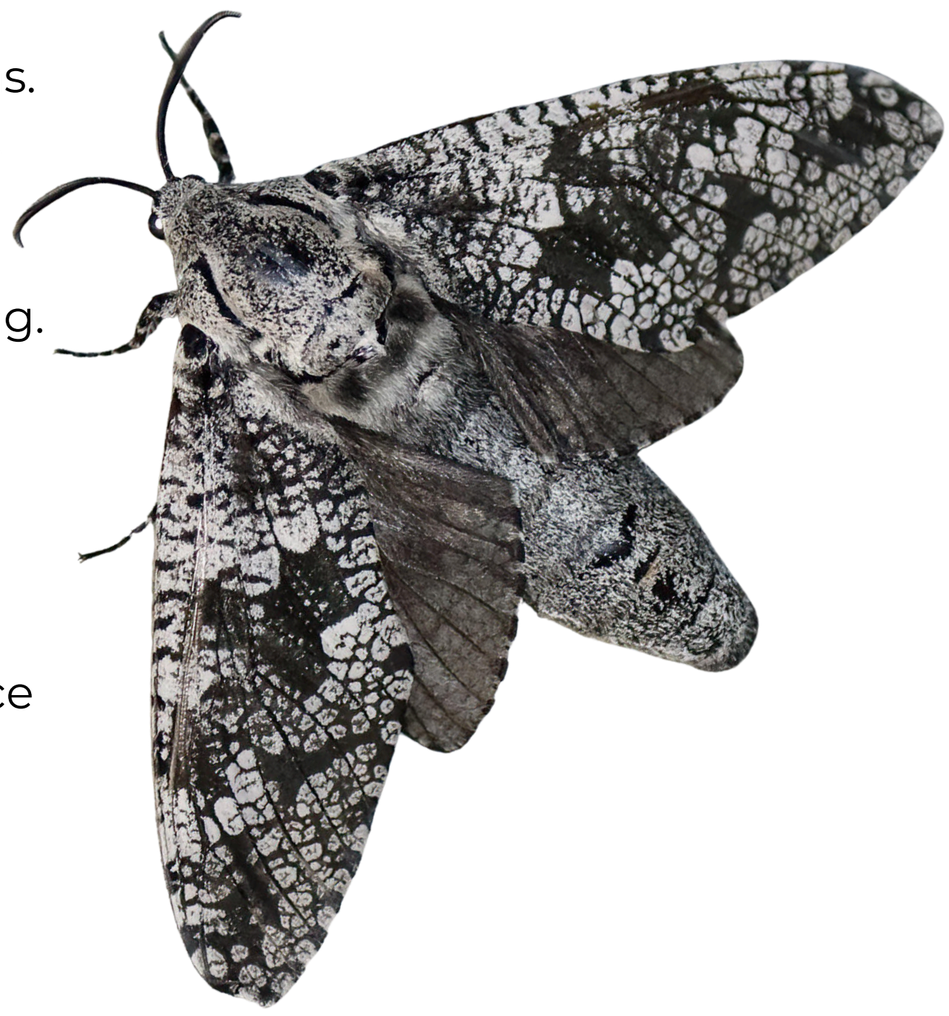
Moth

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Signs/ Symptoms:

- Frass around holes.
- Dark sap spots or oozing from the trunk.
- Galleries creating lumpy areas.
- Weakness causing breakage.



Prevention/ Management:

- Keep your tree healthy with proper watering and fertilizing.
- Avoid trunk injuries.
- Remove limbs/tree and burn infested wood.
- Insecticide sprays.

Insecticides are not effective once larvae are inside.

Contact:

GREEN DROP Tree Care

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