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(Effluent Water cont'd.)

**Editor's note:** A special note of thanks should be given to our local golf course superintendents who made much of this project possible: Carl G. Hopphan, Supt., Evanston Golf Club for his fine job as chairman, James Johns, Supt., Northmoor Country Club and Bruce Williams, Supt. Bob O'Link Golf Club for their work in turf plot maintenance and frequent turf plot evaluation. Also to the other golf course superintendents who have served on the committee for their foresight and concern. To Dr. David J. Wehner and Tom Fermanian of the University of Illinois for their investigative expertise. To the organizations involved, the University of Illinois North Shore Santuary District, the Chicagoland Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents for their financial support, research and interest.

### Controlling Borers on White Birch Trees

Roscoe Randall, Extension Entomologist  
University of Illinois

Borers have destroyed many beautiful white birch trees. The bronze birch borer is a common insect pest across the midwest. Early symptoms of borer activity include yellowing of leaves at the top of the tree, then die back at the top and eventually the entire tree may die. Eggs are laid in bark crevices by a slender, 3/8" long, bronze beetle in May of each year. Eggs hatch and the legless, white flattened grub tunnels beneath the thin bark. The tunneling about under the bark loosens it and also girdles the limb or trunk being fed upon.

Control alternatives include planting birch species not commonly attacked by bronze birch borer. These include river birch, a bronze-bark birch, or a white bark species called Whitespire, which appears to be resistant to borers. Fertilizing and watering to prevent drought stress appear to reduce borer activity, but many birches grown in the open are under stress during mid summer.

Insecticide application is another alternative. Since 1970, entomologists at the University of Illinois have suggested the use of Cygon 2E as a spray applied in late May or early June and repeated 3 weeks later. This year we also suggest Dursban as an alternative insecticide spray.

Another technique which has been tried and evaluated since 1977 is the use of Cygon 2E applied as a band or collar on the trunk of white birch in late May or early June. The results for the past seven years have been favorable. The method is to simply apply Cygon 2E as a concentrate out of the original container in a 5 or 6 inch band around the trunk below the lower limb. Apply it with either a paint brush or if there are many trees to treat, use a small, low-pressure sprayer. As with spraying a dilute spray, apply on a drying day when the concentrate will dry rapidly. It will be translocated into the tree and kill hatching borers.

Cygon will leave a slight yellow stain on the trunk but will disappear before fall. Do not come in contact with the Cygon concentrate when applying. Do not apply a band wider than six inches. Banding is not an improved method over spraying the birch tree but is easier and can be used where spraying would be difficult. Neither spraying nor banding will save a severely borer damaged birch tree. Also, do not band non birch trees suspected of being infested with borers as Cygon may injure or kill other trees.