



## Raspberry Crown Borer

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**Description:** Larva: White, grub like, 1/4 to 1 1/4 inches long. Egg: Oval, deep reddish brown, about 1/16 inch long, laid under surface of leaf. Adult: Clear winged moth that resembles a common wasp; black body crossed by yellow bands.



Left Raspberry Crown Borer adult. Right Larva and damage. Both photos: University of Georgia Plant Pathology Archive, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

**Common Host Plant(s):** Blackberry, dewberry, and raspberry.

**Damage:** In fall the young larvae burrow into the bark of plants, near the soil. Older larvae hollow out crowns of plants. It has a 2-year life cycle.

**Distribution:** Northern part of United States, but can occur in Virginia.

**Cultural Control:** Remove and destroy infested canes and crowns in early spring or fall. If possible remove wild blackberries and brambles from near the cultivated plants.

**Organic/Biological Control:** Use a soil drench of *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* or Hb nematodes, which are beneficial nematodes that will control the pest but not harm the plant.

**Chemical Control:** Use a registered insecticide drench of the crowns and the lower 2 feet of canes between October 1 and March 1. The first spray will only get the small 1<sup>st</sup> year larvae, so plan to treat again the following year. It may be necessary to treat for more than 2 years, as they are hard to control.

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