

**It Came to the U.S. From Halfway Around the World.  
Then It Invaded Florida's Tropical Paradise.  
Now It's Killing Our Trees.  
We Need Your Help.  
Urgently.**

The Redbay Ambrosia Beetle is bad news for Florida's avocado and red bay trees. Sometime prior to its initial discovery in 2002, this beetle came from Asia to Georgia in contaminated packing crates. Since then it has moved into Florida and is wreaking havoc on avocado trees and other woody plants in the laurel family.

The beetle and the fungus it carries, laurel wilt, have already killed avocado trees in Duval, Brevard and Indian River counties. Next in their path are St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade.

Beetles bore into the woody parts of trees. To prevent the spread of this unwanted pest and disease, it is recommended that you dispose of host tree branches or logs (firewood) using local waste management services. Do not move them out of the area.

The beetle itself is smaller than a grain of rice, cylinder shaped, dark brown to black. It is so tiny that you likely wouldn't even see it on your tree. But you would see indications of the presence of the beetle as well as laurel wilt.

Things to look for:

- Wilted brown leaves hanging on the stems.
- Small holes in the wood, sometimes with toothpick-sized sawdust protrusions.
- Dark streaking under the bark.
- Leaf, stem and limb dieback.
- Small holes exuding white crystallized sap.
- Insect galleries in wood.
- Tree death.



Redbay Ambrosia Beetle



Crystallized sap (avocado)



Dark streaking  
(avocado)



Wilted leaves  
(avocado)



Tree decline  
(red bay)



Sawdust protrusions  
(red bay)

**If You See Any of These Indications on Your  
Avocado or Red Bay Trees, Please Call Us at  
1-888-397-1517**



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner

