

## Peach twig borer

### What is it?

The Peach twig borer (*Anarsia lineatella*) is a major pest of several tree crops, especially *Prunus* spp. In Californian almond orchards, control of this pest requires insecticide use during the dormant, post-bloom, and sometimes hull split stages.

The female moth lays pale yellow-orange oval eggs in fruit, twigs and leaves and the emerging larvae overwinter in holes bored under the bark of trunks and young (1-3 years) limb crotches. The larvae cause damage to growing shoot tips, developing scaffolds and to nuts. Direct feeding on nut meat causes the greatest economic damage, with soft-shelled almonds being the most susceptible.

The pupae shelter in crevices, curled leaves and debris, or between the hull and shell of old nuts. They can grow up to 1 cm in length.

### What to look for?

The overwintering larvae produce small 'chimneys' of frass on bark surfaces. During early to mid-bloom (of Non-pareil), larvae can be seen leaving the bark and making their way towards young buds and leaves.



H. Audenard

Peach twig borer larvae



Jack Kelly Clark, UC Statewide IPM Program

Adult peach twig borer

### Where is it found?

The Peach twig borer is found throughout North America, Europe and the Mediterranean.



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Peach twig borer feeding damage on almond kernels



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Pile of frass at entrance of peach twig borer hibernaculum

Look for wilted strikes where the larvae have mined into young shoots. They are easiest to see on young trees and on water shoots. Cutting the infested shoots longitudinally will expose the larvae. The caterpillars are small with a brown body and a black head. White bands are present between each body segment.

If not detected and controlled early, the Peach twig borer produces obvious shallow channels in the nuts. These larvae do not form webbing in affected nuts, unlike the Naval orangeworm.

Adult moths are nocturnal, grow up to 11 mm long and have grey, mottled wings.

### **What is the best protection for my orchard?**

Neglected orchards and feral almonds should be reported to your local department of primary industries.

Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common pests so you can tell if you see something different.

**If you see anything unusual,  
call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline  
on 1800 084 881.**

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