



# UI Extension Forestry Information Series II

Insects & Diseases No. 20

## Bark Beetles and Firewood

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People often introduce bark beetles into urban areas or home sites when they bring in wood from surrounding forests to use for fuel in their fireplaces and wood stoves. Bark beetles larvae and/or adults can overwinter firewood and emerge in spring to infest local trees. Bark beetles commonly found in Idaho are listed in Table 1 (page 2).


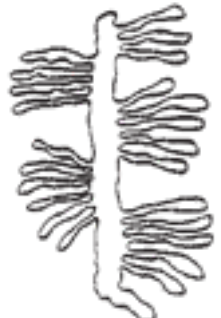





There are two methods you can use to prevent bark beetles from emerging in the spring and infesting local trees.

1. Remove all of the bark from the trees while still green. This will uncover beetle galleries and expose larvae and/or adults to harsh temperatures and wind, effectively killing the brood that would have been next year's problem. This is hard and tedious work, but effective.



2. Stack wood in an area that gets full sun. Loosely wrap the pile with thick, clear plastic with the edges sealed in trenches with soil or with bricks or other heavy objects, creating a solar oven. Leave wrapped for at least 6 months, if not a full year. The heat from the sun will kill any adult or larval bark beetles still present in galleries under the bark



<b>Table 1. Bark beetles common to Idaho.</b>			
<b>Bark beetle &amp; host tree species (s)</b>	<b>Gallery</b>	<b>Bark beetle &amp; host tree species (s)</b>	<b>Gallery</b>
Mountain pine beetle <i>Dendroctonus ponderosae</i>  Most native and introduced species of pine		Douglas-fir beetle <i>Dendroctonus pseudotsugae</i>  Douglas-fir	
Red turpentine beetle <i>Dendroctonus valens</i>  Any native and introduced pine species		Spruce beetle <i>Dendroctonus rufipennis</i>  Engelmann spruce, Colorado blue spruce; rarely lodgepole pine	
Western pine beetle <i>Dendroctonus brevicomis</i>  Ponderosa pine		Fir engraver <i>Scolytus ventralis</i>  Grand fir; occasionally subalpine fir	
Pine engraver beetle <i>Ips pini</i> & <i>I. emarginatus</i>  All native species of pine attacked			
FROM: Hagle, S.K., K.E. Gibson, S. Tunnock. 2003. A Field Guide to Disease and Insect pests of Northern and central Rocky Mountains. USDA Forest Service Report No. R1-03-08. 198 pp.			