

# Stop

# The Invasion



Photographs courtesy of Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org and Vicky Klasmer, Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia Agropecuaria, Bugwood.org

## Sirex Woodwasp

*Sirex noctilio*

Report  
Sightings

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[invasivespecies.wa.gov](http://invasivespecies.wa.gov)

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### What are they?

Sirex woodwasps are a species of wasp native to Eurasia and northern Africa. They primarily attack pine trees (sometimes also spruce and fir trees), laying their eggs along with a symbiotic fungus and toxic mucus that kill the tree. The larvae tunnel through the wood, eventually emerging as adults.

### Are they here yet?

No, but established populations reside in the eastern United States.

### Why should I care?

Native woodwasps only attack dead or dying trees, but Sirex woodwasps will also attack healthy trees. Populations of Washington's native pines and other conifers could suffer severe damage from an infestation of Sirex woodwasps.

### What should I do if I find one?

Report a sighting online at [www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml](http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml).

### How can we stop them?

Sirex woodwasps were introduced through imported wood products. Avoid moving firewood far from the area where you bought it—[buy it where you burn it](#). See [Don't Move Firewood](#) for more information.



Photograph courtesy of David R. Lance, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

## What are their characteristics?

- 0.5-1.5 inches long as an adult.
- Cylindrical body, spear-shaped plate at the end of the abdomen, black antennae.
- Females: metallic blue head and body, orange legs, long spikey ovipositor (resembles a stinger).
- Males: metallic blue head and thorax, orange and black abdomen.

## How do I distinguish them from native species?

There are many native species of woodwasp that look very similar to Sirex woodwasps. Species are best identified by an entomologist. If you have a suspected Sirex woodwasp, contact your local Washington State University Extension agent, the Washington State Department of Agriculture, or the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

## Where do I get more information?

- USDA Pest Alert:  
[www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest\\_al/sirex\\_woodwasp/sirex\\_woodwasp.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/sirex_woodwasp/sirex_woodwasp.htm)
- USDA Species Profile:  
<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/animals/sirexwasp.shtml>

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