

## Boring pests Iris borer

Iris borer larvae initially feed at the tops of plants, chewing holes in leaves and giving leaves a ragged appearance. They eventually

create dark-streaked areas that appear watery. Larvae migrate down the plant, and then mature larvae bore into leaves a few inches above the growing medium surface. Mature larvae then feed within the rhizome, creating large tunnels. The tunneling causes plants to wilt severely and



The mature larvae of iris borer are 2 to 5 cm long, fleshy, smooth and pink with black spots on the side.



## **Iris borer – *continued***

eventually rot. The adult iris borer is a nocturnal moth with dark purple front wings and yellow-brown hind wings. Females lay eggs in plant debris. Iris borer overwinters in the egg stage.



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**Management:** Remove debris from adjacent areas. Clip and remove dead iris leaves and stems to eliminate any overwintering eggs. Contact insecticides need to be applied before the larvae enter leaves. Frequent applications may be necessary in the spring.