

## Santa Cruz County officials warn of invasive tree-killing beetle detected in Felton area

by [Thomas Hughes, Bay City News](#) October 14, 2024



Magnified image of a female invasive shothole borer. Females of this species are about the size of a sesame seed, and males are smaller. (Photo courtesy John Kabashima/UC Cooperative Extension via County of Santa Clara)

Santa Cruz County agriculture officials are asking property owners and residents to be on the lookout for an invasive beetle called the invasive shothole borer beetle that was detected in Felton.

The tiny, dark brown beetle was found by a resident hiking on East Zayante Road and Graham Hill Road, according to a Thursday press release from the county.

The beetle was also found recently in San Jose, near Coyote Creek, according to the county.

They are also present in Southern California, where they are suspected to have been first introduced, according to the North American Invasive Species Management Association, known as [NAISMA](#).

The invasive shothole borer beetle is a small beetle that can kill or damage several different tree types. Some varieties most susceptible include sycamores, oaks, cottonwoods and box elder trees, according to NAISMA.

Signs of an infestation include small, round holes that are about the size of a ballpoint pen that could also show stains, a white substance, sap secretions known as gumming or small wood pieces called frass protruding from holes on a tree trunk.

Trees might also show signs of dieback, like dead or wilted branches, according to NAISMA.

Teams from the county Department of Agriculture and University of California Cooperative Extension are surveying the area along Zayante Creek to get a sense of the scope of the infestation, according to county spokesperson Jason Hoppin.



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The County has determined that the invasive shothole borer, a non-native beetle that attacks more than 65 species of tree in California, is present in San José. The insect tunnels into host trees, introducing a fungus that serves as food for the beetles and their larvae. Members of the community can help determine the extent of the infestation and manage it.

Learn more at <https://news.santaclaracounty.gov/non-native-insect-kills-t...>

Photo of a female invasive shothole borer, which is about the size of a sesame seed, is courtesy of John Kabashima, UC Cooperative Extension. Photo of an invasive shothole borer entry/exit hole is courtesy of Monica Dimson/UC Cooperative Extension.



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The UC Cooperative Extension has an invasive [shothole borer beetle assessment online](#). More resources are available at [ishb.org](http://ishb.org).

Anyone who sees signs of the beetles should contact the Santa Cruz County Department of Agriculture at (831) 763-8080.