

Longhorn Beetle



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

LONGHORN BEETLES

FAMILY: Cerambycidae

ORDER Coleoptera

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 1/4 - 3 inches; most average around 1/2 inch
- ◆ long, slender-bodied; many have bright color patterns of yellow, orange, white and black
- ◆ very long antennae; in some species they curve back and can be longer than the body
- ◆ over 1200 species in North America



Where to Look:

Most of the brightly-colored species feed on flowers during the day - a good place to find Longhorns is on goldenrod in the fall growing in meadows and along roadsides. Most of the larvae are borers and tunnel into the wood of fallen trees.

Who Eats It?

A variety of small mammals as well as toads and lizards.



LIFE CYCLE

COMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

Eggs of longhorn beetles are laid in rotting wood. The larvae bore into the wood. They can spend several years boring through the wood before pupating and emerging as adults.

What It Eats

Adults of many of the brightly colored species feed on pollen. Other species eat wood, roots and leaves. The larvae feed primarily on wood.



Did You Know

Many species of longhorns can cause extensive damage to cut logs in forests as they tunnel through the wood. Sawdust around a hole in a log is a good sign that longhorn beetle larvae are present.

Role in the Ecosystem

Longhorn beetles transfer pollen between flowers as they feed.