

17-Year Cicada Fast Facts

Life History

- 17-year cicadas are also called periodical cicadas, which is a group that includes 13-year cicadas
- Cicada nymphs live underground for 17 years and emerge near the end of their life cycle
 - molt on trees when they emerge, live for several weeks, and mate
 - female cicadas lay eggs in small tree branches and trunks
 - adult cicadas die, new cicadas hatch and burrow into the ground for another 17 years
- Only emerge when soil is 64 degrees about 8 inches down
 - Occurs in late May or early June in Ann Arbor

Tree Damage

- Female cicadas deposit eggs in tree branches/trunks between 3/16 inch and 1/2 inch in diameter
 - Create a slit
- Can be beneficial for larger and established trees: the cicadas prune weak or diseased branches
 - Called flagging



- - *An image of Flagging caused by cicadas*
- Can be fatal for smaller saplings: the tree is effectively girdled
 - Branch/trunk is split open



How to protect trees

- Covering vulnerable or smaller trees with mesh/netting
 - Must be $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or smaller to prevent cicadas from crawling through
 - Must be secured to the trunk because cicadas crawl up from the ground
 - “Lollipop method”
- Common coverings:
 - Agricultural netting (row)
 - Cheesecloth
 - Polyolefin
- Do not use insecticides
 - There are so many cicadas that will replace the ones killed
 - Pets could become poisoned from eating treated cicadas
 - Collateral damage —other insects like honey bees and butterflies could be killed

Active Periodical Cicada Broods of the United States

