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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEWARE OF BARK BEETLES

WAKE FOREST, NC – Aug. 9, 2011 – The Town of Wake Forest is urging area landowners with pine trees on their property to be on the lookout for signs of pine bark beetle infestation. In recent days the Town's tree trimming crews have discovered bark beetle outbreaks along Capital Boulevard near Rex Healthcare of Wakefield, the former Wake Forest Golf & Country Club, and Staffordshire.

For trees already showing signs of infestation, experts say the only direct control method is the removal of the infested trees. A good rule to remember: "If the tree is brown, cut it down. If in doubt, cut it out." Otherwise, you run the risk of the beetles leaving the standing dead trees and attacking more trees.

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service also offers the following recommendations for the care of individual trees:

- If reddish-brown boring dust is found in the bark crevices of a tree, the tree has been successfully attacked and should be cut down - even if the tree is still green in places.
- Dead or attacked trees may be a safety hazard; do not leave them next to houses or other structures.
- Do not cut the top out of the tree hoping that the rest of the tree will recover. It is best to remove such trees to prevent the spread of beetles to other trees and to prevent them turning into safety hazards. You do not need to wait until the entire tree turns brown. Many



- adult beetles may have already flown from the tree before it turns brown.
- Haul cut material off the property to a landfill where the material will be buried or chipped within 30 days, so it will not cause secondary problems.
 - When chipping on site, don't pile the chips next to live trees because the chips may attract bark beetles. Keep chip piles in the open sun and as far from live trees as possible.
 - If you are unsure which trees to remove, consult a certified forester or arborist.

For more information about bark beetles, visit www.extension.org.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov.