



Asian Longhorned Beetle Identified in Worcester

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) has been discovered attacking trees in the northeastern United States; at this point, Worcester is the only city in Massachusetts that has confirmed ALB contamination. This beetle is a serious pest in China, where it kills hardwood trees in roadside plantings, shelterbelts, and plantations. ALB probably traveled to the United States inside solid wood packing material from Asia.

The Asian longhorned beetle has one generation per year. Adult beetles are usually present from July to October, but can be found later in the fall if temperatures are warm. Adults usually stay on the trees from which they emerged, or they may disperse short distances to a new host to feed and reproduce. Each female is capable of laying up to 160 eggs. The eggs hatch in 10-15 days and the larvae tunnel under the bark and into the wood where they eventually pupate. The adults emerge from pupation sites by boring a tunnel in the wood and creating a round exit hole in the tree. This exit hole—which is perfectly round, and a little smaller than the size of a dime—is the signature of ALB. Asian longhorned beetles live on hardwood trees, and prefer maple, elm, and birch trees.

The USDA is coordinating the eradication efforts in Worcester, as well as surveying trees in adjacent areas surrounding the infestation. For more information on this pest, visit <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/alb> or <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lppq/ep/alb> . There have been **no** sightings of the Asian longhorned beetle in Wellesley; however, if you suspect your tree is infested, contact:

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