# Pest Alert

United States
Department of Agriculture

**Forest Service**

**Animal and Plant
Health Inspection Service**

NA-PR-01-99
*Revised March 2010*

# Asian Longhorned Beetle *(Anoplophora glabripennis)*:

## A New Introduction

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) has been discovered attacking trees in the United States. Tunneling by beetle larvae girdles tree stems and branches. Repeated attacks lead to dieback of the tree crown and, eventually, death of the tree. ALB probably travelled to the United States inside solid wood packing material from China. The beetle has been intercepted at ports and found in warehouses throughout the United States.

This beetle is a serious pest in China, where it kills hardwood trees in roadside plantings, shelterbelts, and plantations. In the United States the beetle prefers maple species (*Acer* spp.), including ***boxelder, Norway, red, silver,*** and ***sugar maples***. Other preferred hosts are ***birches, Ohio buckeye, elms, horsechestnut,*** and ***willows***. Occasional to rare hosts include ***ashes, European mountain ash, London planetree, mimosa,*** and ***poplars***. A complete list of host trees in the United States has not been determined.

Currently, the only effective means to eliminate ALB is to remove infested trees and destroy them by chipping or burning. To prevent further spread of the insect, quarantines are established to avoid transporting infested trees and branches from the area. Early detection of infestations and rapid treatment response are crucial to successful eradication of the beetle.

The ALB 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 usually lays 35-90 eggs during her lifetime. Some are capable of laying more than that. The eggs hatch in 10-15 days. The larvae feed under the bark in the living tissue of the tree for a period of time and then bore deep into the wood where they pupate. The adults emerge from pupation sites by boring a tunnel in the wood and creating a round exit hole in the tree.

For more information about Asian longhorned beetle in the United States, visit these U.S. Department of Agriculture Web sites:

**www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/alb/**

**www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/index.shtml**

***If you suspect an Asian longhorned beetle infestation, please collect an adult beetle in a jar, place the jar in the freezer, and immediately notify any of these officials or offices in your State:***

State Department of Agriculture:
- State Plant Regulatory Official
- State Entomologist

U.S. Department of Agriculture:
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine
- Forest Service

County Cooperative Extension Office

State Forester or Department of Natural Resources

**Call 866-702-9938 toll free.**

# Asian Longhorned Beetle
# *WHAT TO LOOK FOR:*

**1. Adult beetles.** Individuals are ¾ to 1¼ inches long, with jet black body and mottled white spots on the back. The long antennae are 1½ to 2½ times the body length with distinctive black and white bands on each segment. The feet have a bluish tinge.

**2. Oval to round pits in the bark.** These egg-laying sites or niches are chewed out by the female beetle, and a single egg is deposited in each niche.

**3. Oozing sap.** In the summer, sap may flow from egg niches, especially on maple trees, as the larvae feed inside the tree.

**4. Accumulation of coarse sawdust** around the base of infested trees, where branches meet the main stem, and where branches meet other branches. This sawdust is created by the beetle larvae as they bore into the main tree stem and branches.

**5. Round holes,** 3/8 inch in diameter or larger, on the trunk and on branches. These exit holes are made by adult beetles as they emerge from the tree.

**Photo Sources:**

USDA Forest Service

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