

Combat invasive tree-killing insects and help save the environment

Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Long-Horned Beetle

Did you know that for the past 15 years invasive insects have wreaked havoc in the United States by destroying millions of trees, costing taxpayers millions of dollars to combat them and endangering our environment? Trees that are damaged or killed by these insects can also contribute to power outages as those dead or dying trees can fall onto overhead utility lines.

Two of these insects are of particular interest in our Upstate New York and New England service territories. They are the Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Long-Horned Beetle, which were accidentally introduced to the United States, and have spread primarily because of human transportation of infested firewood.

A significant infestation of Asian Long-Horned Beetle was found in Worcester, Massachusetts last year. Asian Long-Horned Beetle continues to be a significant problem and threat in the New York City, Long Island and New Jersey area, while the Emerald Ash Borer is now in the Southern tier of New York State and on the “doorsteps” in Western New York and north in Canada.

New York State has instituted the following restrictions:

- ▶ Only firewood that has been heat treated to eliminate pests can be imported and moved throughout the state.

- ▶ Untreated firewood can only be moved within a 50 mile radius from its source and must be accompanied with proof of source—such as, a receipt, label or self-issued certificate.



Authorities fear the pest may spread to other New England states. Although the beetles are naturally slow movers, they can get to other states and areas by wood that is carried by

campers, loggers, tree companies or infected nursery stock.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture fined two Rhode Island companies \$1,875 each for transporting 11 ash trees from the quarantined area of Worcester to North Kingstown. The wood was returned to Worcester and destroyed.

In the Rhode Island State House, Senator V. Susan Sosnowski, D-South Kingstown, has introduced a bill that would make it a crime to carry beetle-infested wood into the state. Violators could pay fines of up to \$25,000.

New Hampshire has no known infestation at this time.

Important notice: Customers are urged to watch and report symptoms or infestation in trees.

Look for and report these symptoms:

Emerald Ash Borer – small half-moon, ‘D’-shaped exit holes (about 1/8” in diameter) on ash trees, tree death from the top down, “s”-shaped larval galleries under the bark and usually a proliferation of sprouts on the lower stem. In some instances, woodpeckers may leave jagged holes in the bark in their feeding search for the insect larvae. Green, white, black and blue ash (and/or horticultural varieties) are the trees infested and killed.

Asian Long-Horned Beetle – 3/8 inch round exit holes on the trunk and branches, sawdust and sap on and around trees, round pits in the bark (egg niches) and oozing sap from egg niches in Summer, often on maple, horse chestnut, birch and willow trees.

To help minimize the spread of these destructive insects, only purchase firewood that has been harvested locally or heat treated. If you are camping, purchase your firewood near your site, do not move wood from your property to your campgrounds.

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For more information and to report infestations:

New York: Visit www.dec.ny.gov or call **1-866-640-0652** (email: firewood@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

Massachusetts: If you think you have seen this beetle, we encourage you to submit a report and photos, or you can call Pest Hotline at **617-626-1779** or go to www.massnrc.org/pests/albreport.aspx – images may be sent directly to pestalert@massnrc.org.

New Hampshire: To report please contact: Division of Plan Industry, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, Post Office Box 2042, Concord, NH 03302-2042 telephone: **603-271-2561**; email jweaver@agr.state.nh.us or go to www.agriculture.nh.gov.

Rhode Island: Although no beetles have been reported, please contact www.dem.ri.gov.

Additional sites you may visit to learn more about this infestation:

- ▶ USDA Forest Service Asian Longhorned Beetle homepage contains up-to-date information on the battle against ALB in the U.S. www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/alb/index.shtm
- ▶ USDA APHIS Pest Detection and Management Programs Source for information on government regulations and actions to control ALB www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/
- ▶ UMass Extension Asian Longhorned Beetle Fact Sheet www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/wood_attackers/asian_longhorned_beetle.html
- ▶ Cornell University ALB Diagnostic Web Site www.entomology.cornell.edu/Extension/Woodys/ALB_Mahaffey/ALBHomepage.html

- ▶ Exotic Forest Pest Information System for North America Cavey, JF. 2000. *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Motschulsky)

http://spfnic.fs.fed.us/exfor/data/pestreports.cfm?pestidval=53&language_display=english

- ▶ National Park Service Pest Alert, Firewood: Threat from Invasive Beetles

Information about quarantine regulations affecting firewood movement

<http://massnrc.org/pests/linked-documents/USDAfirewoodpestalert.pdf>



Asian Long-Horned Beetle



ALB, Michael Bohne, Bugwood.org

- ▶ Asian Long-Horned Beetle host trees most preferred are maple trees (sugar, Norway, red and silver), boxelder, horsechestnut, elms and all willow species.
- ▶ Adult exit holes are perfectly round, 3/8" diameter...almost as if the tree was drilled.
- ▶ Adult leaf-feeding damage can occur as the beetle tears away at the veins of the leaf, creating jagged holes rather than circular or oval holes left by other leaf feeding insects.

Emerald Ash Borer



Adult EAB, James W. Smith

- ▶ The Emerald Ash Borer has four life stages: adult, egg, larva and pupa. The adult beetle has a shiny emerald green body with a coppery red or purple abdomen. The beetle measures 1/2 inch long and 1/8 inch wide.
- ▶ Emerald Ash Borers have killed over 50 million ash trees in the state of Michigan since being found in 2002.
- ▶ Adult Emerald Ash Borers are most notable in June and July, but can be seen from May to early September.

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