



Pest alert: Asian Longhorned Beetle detected in Massachusetts

(August 7, 2008)

The Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*, "ALB"), a pest of hardwood trees including maple, birch and horse chestnut, was recently discovered in Worcester, Massachusetts. An astute resident of the Greendale section of Worcester reported the sighting, and it was confirmed by entomologists from USDA APHIS-PPQ earlier this week.

The Asian Longhorn Beetle is an invasive species native to China. It was first discovered in the U.S. in New York in 1996, and has also been found in Chicago and New Jersey. The beetles cause damage by tunneling within the trunks and branches of trees, disrupting the sap flow and weakening and eventually killing them.

This pest attacks a wide variety of hardwood trees, particularly maples, and is considered a serious threat to the nursery, lumber, wood products, maple syrup, and tourism industries in our state. If it became established over a large area, it could also significantly disrupt the forest ecosystem.



To protect the trees at Camp Resolute and Nobscot Scout Reservation firewood cannot be brought into either camp.

Firewood may be infested with the Asian longhorned beetle. Moving infested firewood spreads this insect to new locations. Once in a new area, ALB can become established and kill trees.