



! Tree Inspections for Asian Longhorned Beetle

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and its partners inspect trees in areas suspected to have—or quarantined for—the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). ALB is an invasive insect that feeds on and eventually kills maple and other hardwood trees. Tree inspections help determine how large an infestation is, if the beetle is in other areas, and when quarantines can be removed. Inspecting trees is part of the approach used to eradicate ALB, which can also include enacting quarantines, removing infested and at-risk host trees, and using insecticides.

You can help by allowing ALB program officials access to your property to inspect trees.

How do tree inspections help fight ALB?

ALB program officials look at trees that ALB attacks for signs of damage caused by the beetle and the beetle itself. This work helps find ALB and the trees the beetle is infesting. The sooner we find ALB and any infested trees, the sooner we can eliminate the beetle from your area.

When do tree inspections happen?

If the weather allows, ALB program officials inspect trees year-round. Inspections typically take place Monday through Friday, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. When needed, inspections may happen on Saturdays.



ALB program officials inspecting trees for signs of Asian longhorned beetle in Massachusetts

How will I know you are an ALB program official?

ALB program officials are either USDA, State, or contracted employees. We wear high-visibility vests, shirts, or jackets, and we carry official photo identification.

What trees are inspected?

We inspect trees that ALB attacks: maple, box elder, horse chestnut, buckeye, mimosa, birch, katsura tree, ash, golden raintree, sycamore, London planetree, poplar, willow, mountain ash, and elm.

How do you inspect my trees?

We inspect trees with binoculars to look at them from the ground, via bucket trucks to look at treetops, and by climbing trees to look within tree

canopies. We also collect data about each tree.

What data are you collecting?

We collect information about the tree, including the species; its size and location on your property; and what our inspection found, such as any ALB damage (like exit holes, egg sites, tunneling) or no damage.

Can I perform tree inspections myself?

If you live in or near an ALB-regulated area, trained ALB program officials and contractors perform property-wide tree inspections to determine if any tree on the property is infested or not. And you can inspect your trees anytime and let us know if you find any signs of damage caused by the beetle or the beetle itself. To make a

report, please call 1-866-702-9938 or visit www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com.

How can I be sure your inspections are accurate?

We are trained to recognize and identify different tree types, all ALB life stages from eggs to larva to adult beetles, and all the tree damage the insect causes. Plus, our inspection process includes quality assurance work to ensure our inspections and the data we collect are accurate.

How long will inspections take?

The time it takes to complete inspections depends on many things, from the number and size of host trees surveyed on the property to the acreage and terrain. The season and weather conditions can slow down survey; for example, it is hard to see beetle damage on wet trees. Other potential hazards, such as high winds and powerlines, can also impede survey.

Can you inspect my trees another time?

If there are activities happening on your property, such as an event, crop harvest, or hunting, we can reschedule tree inspections to take place after these activities are done.

How will I know if my tree is infested?

If your tree is infested, we will paint orange dots around the tree and/or a diagonal slash, tag the tree with a unique ID, and eventually remove the tree at no cost to you. If the tree does not show signs of being infested, we will mark the tree with a forest marking crayon that indicates the inspection has occurred. If survey results are inconclusive, we may mark the tree for follow-up inspection with striped flagging tape and a tree tag, which may be a metal tag or barcode. If safe to do so, tree climbers will conduct the follow-up inspection and make the final determination if the tree is infested. If the tree is unsafe to climb, we will discuss alternative options with you, such as tree removal.

How many times will my trees be inspected?

If you live in an ALB-quarantined area, we will likely inspect your trees many times until the quarantine is removed. Even if we don't find signs of ALB on your property initially, your tree could still become infested if there are infested trees in the quarantine.

When are ALB quarantines removed?

ALB quarantines are removed when final tree inspections show there are no infested trees remaining. It takes a minimum of 4 years between finding an infested tree and conducting the final tree inspections. Your property may not have any infested trees, but it could remain quarantined until the final tree inspections are completed throughout the quarantine.

Do you inspect trees outside of the quarantine?

Sometimes we inspect trees outside of the ALB quarantine. Tree inspections can happen on properties where ALB-infested tree material may have been moved, such as businesses that work with raw woody materials; if a suspected infested tree is reported; or if an infested tree is found close to the quarantine boundary.

For more information about ALB:

www.aphis.usda.gov/pests-diseases/alb



An Asian longhorned beetle-infested red maple tree marked for removal in Ohio