

Asian Longhorn Beetle Control (Final Report)

Recipient Party:	Illinois
Claim Year:	1999
Claim Amount:	\$100,000

In July of 1998 the USDA was alerted to an infestation of the Asian longhorn beetle (ALB) in Chicago. A suburban park district employee discovered an adult beetle in a load of cut wood (firewood) that he had transported in the bed of his pick-up truck from Chicago's northeast Ravenswood neighborhood to his home in Morton Grove, a northwest suburb. By performing a web search the employee discovered the beetle to be the exotic Asian longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), heretofore only found outside of warehouses in New York City. He immediately notified the USDA. This beetle poses a threat to a majority of street trees in the City of Chicago and other municipalities.

The identity of the beetle was verified by Federal entomologists, and State entomologist Norm Seaborg. Stan Smith, Nursery Manager for the State of Illinois established the initial quarantine area with the input of Federal and City representatives. Smith also appointed State inspector Roy Winbigler to be the State's ALB point person.

Before the end of 1998, three more zones were quarantined for the Asian longhorn, including Kilbourne Park, just west of Ravenswood and 2 suburban locations, Summit and Addison. Summit is southwest of Chicago and the source was believed to be palletized material from a nearby industrial park. Addison is west of Chicago and the source was also believed to originate from pallets behind a plumbing and kitchen remodeling company. As a result of ALB all pallets from China are now required to be heat-treated.

In 1998 and 1999 the State of Illinois ALB hotline was the initial contact for any probable positive sightings. The Hotline was established and coordinated by the State of Illinois to take phone calls from homeowners and others identifying potentially infested trees. Door to door flyers were distributed in local neighborhoods and public meetings were held. Tremendous media interest kept the beetle in the public eye. The State responded to requests for information by telephone and through mailings to local municipalities, departments of parks and recreation, tree companies, lawn care companies and waste management facilities as well as homeowners submitting survey requests.

As the designated liaison between the USDA, City of Chicago, State of Illinois and other municipalities, Roy Winbigler participated in detection and control of ALB infested trees. Nursery Manager, Stan Smith dedicated much of his time on the job to the ALB project.

Stan Smith instructed state employees including Bob Lubben, Don Orton, Norm Seaborg, John Walt, Jim Senechalle, Mark Cinnamon and Melissa Cotton to respond to Hot Line calls coming in from throughout the State of Illinois. State inspectors responded with 195 site visits to 1999 survey requests.

In the city of Chicago a team composed of State, Federal and City employees was assembled to locate and destroy infested trees. State inspectors participated with Federal and City employees in the removal of ALB infested trees. From January through September 1999, most of the 17 state inspectors rotated in one-week work shifts in teams of two, working on detection and control. Four hundred seventy two (472) infested trees were removed, chipped and replaced in 1999.

In 1998 and 1999 ALB Regulatory guidelines were established in accordance with the "The Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act" (State of Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 505, Paragraph 90/1). A host tree list was established that included maple (*Acer*), elm (*Ulmus*), Horsechestnut (*Aesculus*), willow (*Salix*), Birch (*Betula*), and ash (*Fraxinus*). The list was later expanded to include hackberry (*Celtis*) and European mountain ash (*Sorbus*). A 'compliance agreement' was instituted in order to inform and monitor tree companies and landscapers on their responsibilities when operating in ALB quarantine zones. The guidelines required that host tree wood be chipped to ½ inch and the stump ground to 8 inches below the soil prior to transporting it out of quarantine zone*. Disposal of yard waste that might contain host tree material was addressed through the major waste management companies. Mailings were made to local municipalities, tree companies, lawn care companies and waste management facilities as well as people submitting survey requests.

* This is still the most effective measure to deal with an infested tree, although the use of insecticides in non-infested trees shows promise for control.

After the initial round of tree removals in 1998 (837 trees) potential treatment options were discussed and preliminary actions related to the control of ALB through insecticide treatment were carried out. These control actions included measuring the diameters at breast height (dbh) of host trees to be treated in the various quarantine zones to determine the volume of insecticide needed per site.

In the fall of 1999 ALB infested trees were discovered in the City of Park Ridge on property belonging to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC). A tree company had alerted the State to the possibility of ALB presence on the site because they had worked in Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood using trucks that they parked overnight in Park Ridge. Nearby trees were surveyed resulting in the discovery seven infested trees. On November 24th, 1999 the State of Illinois established the Park Ridge quarantine. Control actions were immediately taken and after the initial 1999 sweep of seven trees, no more ALB infested trees have been found in the Park Ridge quarantine.

Only one additional find of infested trees was made, near O'Hare Airport (designated the Bensenville quarantine zone) that was definitively traced to movement of infested wood from the initial Ravenswood zone. Since the initial removal of 23 infested trees, and over 200 proximal host trees, no further trees have been found in Bensenville. The current six quarantine zones have a total area of approximately 25 sq. miles. Of those six, three have had no ALB finds in 2001 and 2002 and may be eligible for removal from quarantine after 2003.

Since its detection in 1998 there has been a downward trend in detections of Asian Longhorn beetle infested trees (Chart 1). Programs in Control, Regulatory Compliance, Survey Training and Public Outreach all contributed to this downward trend, however the primary reason for the continuing success of this program is the high level of cooperation and communication between Federal, State, City of Chicago, other agencies and municipalities, the media and the general public.

CHART NO. 1

