

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2008-72
November 10, 2008

SUBJECT: Expansion of the Quarantine Area in Worcester County, Massachusetts, for Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is expanding the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) quarantine area to include additional portions of Worcester County, Massachusetts. The expanded ALB-quarantine area in Worcester includes an additional 29-square miles, now totaling 62-square miles. The expanded quarantine area is necessary in order to restrict the movement of ALB-host material. This action is effective immediately and attached is the Federal Domestic Quarantine Order describing the expanded quarantine area, along with the associated reference to the Code of Federal Regulations, listing the provisions for the movement of ALB-host material.

On August 5, 2008, APHIS confirmed the first State identification of ALB in Worcester County, Massachusetts. On September 4, 2008, a Federal Order was issued, which quarantined 33-square miles of Worcester County, Massachusetts for ALB. Approximately 3,147 infested trees have been detected and APHIS is working cooperatively with the State and affected municipalities to eradicate the pest through the removal and treatment of infested trees. APHIS, in conjunction with the State, is providing ALB outreach material to inform the public of this destructive pest. APHIS will continue to work with the State and municipalities to survey for ALB and expand the quarantine area as necessary to restrict the movement and spread of ALB.

ALB is a destructive wood-boring pest of maple and other hardwoods. This pest was first discovered in the United States in Brooklyn, New York, in August 1996. ALB was later detected in Chicago, Illinois, in July 1998. In October 2002, the beetle was found in Hudson County, New Jersey, and then in Middlesex and Union Counties, New Jersey, in August 2004. After 4 years of negative surveys, ALB was recently declared eradicated in Chicago, Illinois, and Hudson County, New Jersey.

For more information concerning APHIS' ALB Eradication Program and the recent detections in Massachusetts, you may contact Christine Markham, APHIS' National ALB Program Director, at Area Code (919) 855-7328 or Julie Twardowski, APHIS' National ALB Program Coordinator, at Area Code (301) 734-5332.

/s/ John H. Payne /for
Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order