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USDA APHIS Asks for Help Looking for Asian Longhorned Beetle by Checking Trees

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Press Release

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WASHINGTON, July 29, 2024—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is asking the public to look for and report the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). APHIS declares every August Tree Check Month and is asking you to look for this destructive, invasive beetle by checking trees on your property and in your community for damage. Left unchecked, the ALB can cause infested trees to die.

“August is an ideal time of year to look for the beetle and the damage it causes,” said Josie Ryan, APHIS’ National Operations Manager for the ALB Eradication Program. “Adult beetles are emerging now. You can see them on trees and other nearby items. Finding and reporting infested trees early means we can save more trees.”

The ALB is a wood-boring beetle that attacks 12 types of hardwood trees. The insect likes to attack maple trees the most. It also likes to attack birches, buckeyes, elms, and willows. Sometimes it attacks ash, golden rain tree, katsura, London plane tree, mimosa, mountain ash, and poplar. Infested trees become safety hazards. Branches can drop and trees can fall over, especially during storms.

In its larval stage, the insect feeds deep inside tree trunks and branches. It creates tunnels as it feeds. Then as an adult, the beetle chews its way out, creating 3/4-inch round exit holes. Once the beetles exit a tree, they feed on its leaves and bark before mating, laying eggs, and starting another generation of tree-killing beetles.

The adult beetle has markings that are easy to recognize:

- A shiny, black body with white spots. Its body is about 1” to 1-1/2” long.
- Black and white antennae that are longer than its body.
- Six legs and feet. The feet can appear bluish.

Signs that a tree might be infested include:

- Round exit holes in tree trunks and branches about the size of a dime or smaller.
- Egg sites, or chewed spots, on the bark about the size of a quarter. Sap may weep out from these.
- Sawdust-like material called frass found on the tree, ground, or tree branches.
- Branches or limbs dying or falling from an otherwise healthy-looking tree.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Check your trees for this pest. Look for and report any sightings of the beetle, or the tree damage it causes. And don't move materials that the beetle may be in, such as firewood. Doing this can keep infestations from spreading to new locations.

Report it: If you think you found a beetle or tree damage, report it by calling the ALB hotline at 1-866-702-9938. Or submit an [online report](#) through the Asian longhorned beetle website. Try to photograph the beetle or tree damage. If you can, capture the beetle in a durable container and freeze it. This helps preserve the insect for identification.

Reduce spread: If you live in an ALB quarantine area, please keep ALB from spreading by following state and [federal laws](#). These laws restrict the movement of woody material and untreated firewood, as these items could contain ALB.

The goal is to remove ALB infestations throughout the United States, and where possible, eradicate it. APHIS and its partners removed infestations in Illinois and New Jersey; Boston, Massachusetts; Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, Staten Island, and Islip in New York; and from part of East Fork State Park, and in Stonelick and Monroe townships in Ohio. Eradication programs continue in Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, and South Carolina.

For more information about ALB and program activities, please call 1-866-702-9938. Or visit <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/alb>.

APHIS protects the health of U.S. agriculture and natural resources against invasive pests and diseases, regulates genetically engineered crops, administers the Animal Welfare Act, and helps people and wildlife coexist. We also certify the health of U.S. agricultural exports and resolve phytosanitary and sanitary issues to open, expand, and maintain markets for U.S plant and animal products.