

USDA Updates List of Regulated Articles for Asian Longhorned Beetle to Include *Koelreuteria* (Golden Rain Tree)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has updated the list of regulated articles to reflect new information concerning *Koelreuteria* (golden rain tree) as a known host genus for the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB).

APHIS took this action based on new scientific research that agency scientists conducted in China, which revealed that ALB is able to complete a full lifecycle in *Koelreuteria* in the environment. Updating the list of regulated articles is necessary to prevent the human-assisted spread of ALB.

Currently, ALB regulated articles listed in 7 CFR 301.51-2(a) include firewood (all hardwood species), green lumber and other material living, dead, cut or fallen—inclusive of nursery stock, logs, stumps, roots, branches and debris of half an inch or more in diameter of the following genera: *Acer* (maple), *Aesculus* (horse chestnut), *Albizia* (mimosa), *Betula* (birch), *Celtis* (hackberry), *Cercidiphyllum* (katsura), *Fraxinus* (ash), *Platanus* (sycamore), *Populus* (poplar), *Salix* (willow), *Sorbus* (mountain ash) and *Ulmus* (elm). The list of regulated articles will be amended to include *Koelreuteria* (golden rain tree).

Regulated articles may not be moved interstate from quarantined areas except in accordance with the conditions specified in §§ 301.51-4 through 301.51-9 of the regulations.

USDA has prepared an economic analysis for the amended list of regulated articles. The amendment will most likely impact nurseries, site developers, construction companies, tree service companies, landscapers, garden centers, firewood dealers and utility companies. Based on the information presented in the analysis, it is expected that affected entities would not experience any additional compliance costs as a result of this rule because state-imposed ALB

quarantines are already in place that apply the same movement restrictions and inspection requirements.

Federal and state-imposed ALB quarantines currently exist in Massachusetts, New York New Jersey and Ohio, where eradication programs are in operation. Both federal and state laws establish regulated areas around ALB infestations. The regulated areas assist in beetle eradication by curtailing the movement of host materials. ALB quarantine maps can be obtained from the following Web page: www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/alb_maps.shtml.

ALB is a destructive pest of hardwood trees. In its larva stage, the beetle bores into the heartwood of a host tree, eventually killing the tree. Immature beetles bore into tree trunks and branches, causing heavy sap flow from wounds and sawdust accumulation at tree bases. ALB feed on, and during winter in, the interiors of trees. Adult beetles emerge in the summer and fall months from round holes about the size of a dime. A new generation of adult ALB is produced each year.

If ALB were to move into the U.S. hardwood forests, the nursery, maple syrup and forest product industries could experience severe economic losses. In addition, urban and forest ALB infestations will result in environmental damage, aesthetic deterioration and a reduction of public enjoyment of recreational spaces.

Note to Stakeholders: Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS home page at www.aphis.usda.gov and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information on this topic, contact Rhonda Santos (508) 852-8044 or email: rhonda.j.santos@aphis.usda.gov.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.