

USDA Updates List of Regulated Articles for Asian Longhorned Beetle to Include *Cercidiphyllum* (Katsura Tree)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is updating the list of regulated articles to reflect new information concerning *Cercidiphyllum* (katsura tree) as a known host for the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB).

APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine inspectors working on the ALB eradication program in Worcester, Mass., noted ALB egg deposit sites on a katsura tree and later trapped an emerging adult beetle. USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) subsequently confirmed that ALB is able to complete its development in katsura trees. Since then, four additional katsura trees have been detected as ALB-infested within the Massachusetts regulated area.

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), *Fraxinus* (ash), *Platanus* (sycamore), *Populus* (poplar), *Salix* (willow), *Sorbus* (mountain ash), and *Ulmus* (elm). The list of regulated articles will be amended to include *Cercidiphyllum* (katsura 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. Nurseries, site developers or construction companies, tree service companies or landscapers, garden centers, firewood dealers and utility companies are identified as those most likely to be affected by the

amendment. 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; state-imposed ALB quarantines are already in place to apply movement restrictions and inspection requirements. USDA invites comment on the economic analysis, which is posted with the interim rule on the Regulations.gov website.

Notice of this action was published in the June 17 *Federal Register* and became effective upon publication.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before Aug. 16. You may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmpublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2010-0004> to submit or view comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically.
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send one copy of your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2010-0004, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2010-0004.

Federal and state-imposed ALB quarantines currently exist in Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey, 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 webpage: www.aphis.usda.gov/plant/health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/alb_maps.shtml.

The ALB, an insect native to Asia, is a destructive pest of hardwood trees. 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 overwinter 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 would

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 at (508) 852-8044 or e-mail: rhonda.j.santos@aphis.usda.gov.

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