

## Removing Host Trees To Eradicate Asian Longhorned Beetle

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and partners are working to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) in four areas: Worcester County, MA; central Long Island, NY; Clermont County, OH; and Charleston and Dorchester Counties in South Carolina. ALB is an invasive insect that feeds on a wide variety of trees, eventually killing them. The only way to eradicate this pest and protect natural resources is to remove infested and, sometimes, at-risk host trees. The following is a quick reference for property owners and residents who have questions about this work.

### Why do you have to remove trees to eradicate ALB?

ALB larvae burrow deep into trees, where they feed and continue to grow until they re-emerge as adult beetles. Insecticides cannot reach them inside the tree. The only way to eliminate the pest is by removing and destroying the tree.

### Is it possible to only remove the infested part of a tree?

If one part of a tree is infested, other areas of the same tree are also likely infested. The only way to eliminate the pest is to remove and destroy the entire tree.

### Do you only remove infested trees?

In some cases, we may recommend removing high-risk host trees located within one-half mile of infested trees because they could have an undetected infestation. If you do not want us to remove the high-risk host trees on your property, we will continue to inspect them and remove them only if they become infested. We may also need to remove other trees to access the ALB-infested and high-risk host trees.

### What are ALB host trees?

Host trees are trees in which ALB can complete its lifecycle. In the United States, ALB host trees include ash (*Fraxinus*), birch (*Betula*), elm (*Ulmus*), golden



Removed tree inserted into woodchipper

raintree (*Koelreuteria*), horse chestnut/buckeye (*Aesculus*), katsura (*Cercidiphyllum*), London planetree/sycamore (*Platanus*), maple (*Acer*), mimosa (*Albizia*), mountain ash (*Sorbus*), poplar (*Populus*), and willow (*Salix*). We most often find ALB infestations in maples, elms, and willows.

### If you remove high-risk host trees from my property, do I have to worry about ALB again?

If we remove all ALB host trees from your property, the pest won't have any host trees to attack. However, this will only last as long as the host trees do not regrow. If ALB is in the area, any host trees that grow large enough in size can become infested.

### Do I have to pay to have the trees removed?

No, there is no cost to homeowners or residents.

### How do you determine when a tree must be removed?

A tree is considered infested and must be removed when APHIS or State inspectors find any life stages of the insect, such as larvae, pupae, or an adult beetle, or other signs of an ALB infestation, such as an egg site, exit hole, galleries, or tunneling.

### How will I know whether any of my trees must be removed?

We will notify the property owner in person and/or by mail after we confirm an infestation.



*Replanted trees in front of a school*

### **What can I expect if my tree must be removed?**

An ALB program-approved tree removal contractor will develop a tree removal and restoration work plan for your property. You will have an opportunity to review, provide input, and sign off on the plan before they remove any host trees. The plan is not a contract, but it is a way for you to communicate any concerns in writing and receive assurances that these concerns will be addressed. Contractors work closely with landowners to ensure their concerns are addressed before, during, and after trees are removed from the property.

### **Who removes the trees?**

Licensed tree removal specialists perform this work under APHIS or State supervision. For information on who is providing this work in your State, contact your local ALB Eradication Program office by calling 1-866-702-9938, or visit [www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com](http://www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com) (click on “Quarantines” for State-specific information).

### **When do tree removals happen?**

Tree removal contractors typically remove trees between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Property owners may arrange to have tree removal work done outside of these times, if necessary.

### **How are trees removed?**

Using the proper safety equipment, tree removal contractors typically cut down the trees with chain saws. They may use a crane, bucket truck, and rope to make sure the trees don't damage nearby structures or vegetation during the removal process. They will either chip the limbs, branches, and trunk onsite using a woodchipper or take it to an approved disposal yard for incineration or chipping.

### **What happens to the stumps of removed trees?**

Because the beetle can infest tree stumps, the tree removal contractor will either remove and grind the stumps or treat them with an herbicide to prevent regrowth. However, in areas prone to soil erosion or in sensitive wildlife habitats, the contractors will cut stumps as low to the ground as possible and leave them to regrow.

### **Can I keep the wood chips?**

Yes, property owners who ask for the wood chips may keep them.

### **How does the contractor restore the area after tree removal?**

After the contractor removes trees from yards and landscaped areas, they may grind stumps, replace topsoil, grade the area, and seed groundcover. When trees are removed in woodlots or natural areas, the contractor will grade the soil and either seed groundcover, leave the wood chips, or keep the area as is to prevent the establishment of invasive weeds and help hold the soil in place.

We can accommodate property owner restoration requests if they are within the scope of the removal contract. The tree removal contractor is not responsible for addressing concerns unrelated to tree removal activities.

### **What should I do if I think my property was not properly restored?**

You should discuss your concerns with the tree removal contractor, APHIS, and/or our State partners.

### **Do you replace removed trees?**

Replanting programs vary by State. To find out if a replanting program is available in your area, call your local ALB Eradication Program office at 1-866-702-9938.

## **For More Information**

Learn more about ALB eradication efforts at [www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com](http://www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com). For local inquiries, or to speak with your USDA State Plant Health Director, call 1-866-702-9938.