

Asian Longhorned Beetle



The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) is an invasive pest from Asia that came to the United States concealed in solid wood packing material in 1996. The Asian Longhorned Beetle bores 3/4 inch circular holes into healthy hardwood trees and eventually kills them from the interior damage created. Nursery stock, logs, green lumber, firewood, stumps, roots, branches, and debris of 1/2 inch in diameter or more is subject to beetle infestation. Maples, horse chestnuts, apples, poplars, cherries, willows and elms are the beetle's favorite trees. During its larval stage, the ALB bores deep into the tree's heartwood where it feeds on nutrients. This tunneling damages, and eventually kills, the tree.

Adult beetles are usually present from July to October, but can be found later in the fall if temperatures are warm. Adults usually stay on the trees from which they emerge or they may disperse short distances to a new host to feed and reproduce. Human transport of firewood is a prime way that invasive diseases, pathogens and insects, including the Asian Longhorn Beetle move. Residents are reminded to use only local firewood (even when traveling), and burn the wood on site or leave it when you move on.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle was seen in Deerfield in 2008. Please look-out for the beetle which is approximately 1 to 1 1/2 inches in length, not including its antennae. These antennae, which give the insect its common name, are as long as the body itself in females and almost twice the body length in males. The insect's body is shiny black with white spots: the antennae are banded in black and white. If you think you have spotted an Asian Longhorned Beetle, call Public Works at (848) 279-6900. For more information, see the United States Department of Agriculture website at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/background.shtml