

Suzanne Bond (301) 734-5175  
Jim Rogers (202) 720-2511

## **USDA TO TREAT NEW JERSEY TREES AGAINST ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE**

WASHINGTON, April 18 2006—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will treat 27,589 trees susceptible to the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) in New Jersey this spring, including approximately 4,800 trees to be added to the ALB quarantine as a result of an infested tree recently discovered in Linden, N.J. These treatments are part of the ALB cooperative eradication program's effort to prevent further infestation of this invasive insect pest and reduce beetle populations.

APHIS will treat trees in portions of the established 20-square mile quarantine area in New Jersey with the insecticide imidacloprid, which has yielded positive results in past treatments. Program officials will treat 12,279 trees in Linden, 6,557 trees in Woodbridge, 4,647 trees in Carteret, 3,585 trees in Rahway and 521 trees in Roselle. The 4,800 additional trees to be treated this year are in Linden and Roselle, N.J. Tree treatments began April 17 and will last until the middle of June.

Program officials, through the use of certified pesticide applicator contractors, will be injecting imidacloprid into the trees through capsules placed at the base of the trunk or by treating the soil surrounding trees through the use of a hand held injector applicator that uses compressed air. Each site will be closely monitored.

Regardless of the treatment form, the insecticide is dispersed through the tree's vascular system. This enables the insecticide to reach ALB adults feeding on small twigs and leaves and the larvae feeding beneath the bark of host trees. Imidacloprid is currently used in the lawn care industry to kill lawn grubs and in some domestic pet treatments to kill fleas.

The larvae of the ALB bore into healthy hardwood trees and feed on living tree tissue and heartwood. Later, throughout the summer, adult beetles emerge from exit holes and briefly feed on the leaves and small twigs of host trees. To fight this destructive invader, agriculture officials have removed and destroyed more than 16,000 infested or high-risk exposed trees in New Jersey, since the insect was found in the Hoboken/Jersey City area in 2002. In 2004, the infestation in the Carteret/Linden/Rahway area was discovered.

APHIS and its cooperators undertake eradication by imposing quarantines, conducting visual inspections around confirmed sites to determine the scope of infestations, removing infested and high-risk exposed trees and chemically treating host trees as part of an area-wide integrated pest eradication strategy. The goal is to eliminate this destructive insect from New Jersey before it can establish itself elsewhere.

The public can assist the eradication effort by allowing project officials access to their property to evaluate susceptible trees for any signs of ALB infestation and/or to treat

trees that are susceptible to ALB infestation. For more information on the treatment program, call (732) 815-4700. The public can help by looking for ALB, which is about 1 to 1.5 inches long, and has a shiny, jet-black body with distinctive white spots and long antennae banded in black and white. Anyone that sees an insect they suspect is ALB should report that sighting by calling 1-866-BEETLE1.

APHIS, USDA's Forest Service, USDA's Agricultural Research Service, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Division of Plant Industry, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Forest and Parks, Rutgers University Department of Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension Service, and the Liberty Science Center participate in the ALB cooperative eradication program. For more information about ALB, log onto [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov). See "Hot Issues @ at the bottom of the page and click on Asian Longhorned Beetle.

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## Detection Through Awareness

### **Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)**

#### **The Asian Longhorned Beetle has been found in New Jersey!**

The Asian Longhorned Beetle has been detected in 98 trees over a nine-acre section of Jersey City. A 1.5-mile quarantine area has been established around the site, which includes parts of Jersey City and Hoboken. The USDA is coordinating quarantine, survey, and removal efforts in Jersey City, and the New Jersey Forest Service will be assisting with the continuing 25-mile survey surrounding the New York City infestation. Cities and towns across the United States are on the lookout for the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB). While the ALB has mainly caused destruction in Chicago and New York City, and has recently been detected in Jersey City, every town has to be aware that the potential for infestation is possible and early detection is our only means to try and combat this serious pest.



**ALB  
Appearance:**

**Size:** 3/4 to 1 1/4 inches long

**Color:** Glossy jet black body with white spots on its back

**Antennae:** 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 times its body length with distinctive black and white bands on each segment that may have a

bluish-white tint

**Legs:** also may have a bluish-white tint



**ALB Emergence Holes:**

Exit holes made by the adult Asian Longhorned Beetle are about 3/8 inch in diameter or larger.

They resemble a perfectly drilled hole.

Photos courtesy of the USDA Forest Service.

**HISTORY**

The ALB is a native of Asia but immigrated to North America via wood packing material from China. The beetle has been intercepted at ports throughout the United States.

**WHAT TREES WILL THE ALB ATTACK?**

The preferred hosts of the ALB are maple trees, but it will also attack willows, poplars, ash, horsechestnuts, elm, and buckeye trees.

**WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE IN NEW JERSEY?**

Maple trees comprise over thirty percent of the street tree population in New Jersey alone. If we were to get an infestation, we could lose nearly half the trees that line our streets and highways. In addition, six warehouses in New Jersey, have already been quarantined because crates imported from China were infested. The six warehouses are in Camden, Cream Ridge, Linden, Mahwah, New Brunswick, and Secaucus.

A ground survey was done in each area and as of yet the Asian Longhorned Beetle has not been detected, however the threat is real.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU SEE AN ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE?**

Record the exact location of where you saw the beetle or signs of the beetle. If necessary mark/flag the infested tree. If you have an actual specimen put it in a tight jar. You can then put it in the freezer until someone can inspect it. The freezing will kill the beetle but preserve it for identification.

**MOST IMPORTANT: CONTACT THE NJ FOREST SERVICE OR THE USDA FOREST SERVICE IN YOUR AREA**

*For more information on the Asian Longhorned Beetle Awareness Project in New Jersey or if you would like to receive some information packages to spread the awareness, please contact:*

**New Jersey Forest Service  
501 East State Street  
PO Box 404  
Trenton, NJ 08625**

**Phone: 609-292-2532**

**E-mail: Asian Longhorned Beetle Awareness Project**