

Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



New Infestation Threatens New England Forests

Description: The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) is a non-native pest from China and Korea that poses an enormous threat to urban and rural forests in the United States. ALB primarily prefers maple, elm, and birch trees. First found infesting New York City trees in 1996, it has since been found in Chicago (1998); Jersey City, NJ (2002); Toronto, Canada (2003); Middlesex/Union Counties, New Jersey (2004); Pralls Island (Staten Island, NY, 2007); and most recently in Worcester, MA (2008). The Massachusetts infestation is the largest known outside of Asia. Federal, State, and local officials have eradicated ALB in Chicago and Jersey City, and are working to eradicate ALB at all of the known sites. The overall goal is to eradicate ALB from the United States by finding and destroying all infested trees.

Key Issues:

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture APHIS is the lead Federal agency for ALB response.
- Experts believe it is likely that ALB has been unintentionally carried to other New England sites.
- Early detection of ALB in other high-risk areas is critical to eradicating the pest.
- The Massachusetts infestation is the first to occur in a contiguous forested area, posing a serious threat of natural spread throughout New England's forests. Eradication will take many years of concerted and sustained effort by all partners and a long-term commitment of resources.
- Eradication will cost hundreds of millions of dollars over many years; however, stable program funding and a strong Federal, State, and local commitment will ensure success.
- The benefits of avoiding resource and economic damage from ALB, such as to the Vermont sugar maple industry, far outweigh eradication costs.
- Tree climbers and surveyors in bucket trucks are the most effective ways to survey for ALB, despite being costly and time consuming.

Accomplishments: The U.S. Forest Service will continue to support the lead Federal and State plant pest regulatory agencies to successfully detect, contain, and eradicate ALB infestations to prevent this pest from invading our native hardwood forests. To that end, the U.S. Forest Service is pursuing a three-pronged strategy:

1. Provide technical and scientific support to plant pest regulatory agencies to delineate, contain, and eradicate known infestations.
2. Promote early detection in high-risk areas where ALB has not been found.
3. Help communities and landowners deal with the loss of their trees.

In Massachusetts, the U.S. Forest Service has:

- Initiated evaluations in infested forests around Worcester to learn more about how ALB behaves in forests. A better understanding of ALB is likely to produce more effective management tools.
- Provided U.S. Forest Service smokejumpers to conduct within-crown surveys for ALB.
- Provided U.S. Forest Service and State forest health personnel to assist with surveys and homeowner contacts.
- Supplied aerial photography data to assist with planning and to implement surveys.
- Cooperated with APHIS and State forestry and agriculture agencies to plan and implement a coordinated regional survey and public outreach initiative in the New England States.
- Modeled the ALB risk to urban forests in Springfield, MA, to prioritize areas to be surveyed.
- Customized U.S. Forest Service ALB information products and provided them to all cooperators.
- Participated on the ALB Management Board and the ALB Communications Team.
- Replanted nearly 1,000 trees in FY 2009 through the joint efforts of the ALB program, the city of Worcester, and private sources. Replanting is expected to increase significantly in 2010.

Budget History: Forest Health Protection program funding for ALB has been stable over the last few years. FY 2009 figures include \$4.487 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for the

Massachusetts ALB Area Watershed Health and Ecological Enhancement project, which will put people to work to help restore areas affected by ALB. In FY 2009, the U.S. Forest Service received \$0.5 million in USDA APHIS funds to manage an agreement with the Massachusetts DCR to begin replanting in the city of Worcester.

Asian Longhorned Beetle				
<i>(\$ Thousands)</i>				
	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
SPCH	\$200	\$150	\$150	\$150
SPFH	50	50	50	50
Other	n/a	n/a	4,987	0
Totals	\$250	\$200	\$5,187	\$200

*Includes **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** funding for “Massachusetts Asian Longhorned Beetle Area Watershed Health and Ecological Enhancement” project and tree replanting funds from USDA APHIS.

Future Direction:

- Continue the coordinated regional ALB detection and public outreach program in cooperation with USDA APHIS and the State agriculture and forestry agencies in New England; expand to additional States in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest.
- Expand a zip code-based survey to include owners of second homes in ALB-infested areas.
- Continue to evaluate ALB biology and population dynamics in infested forested areas in Massachusetts in order to develop better management tools.
- Continue to provide new and existing ALB information products to all partners.
- Increase replanting significantly through the ARRA-funded ALB watershed health and ecosystem restoration project.

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