

# Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication

USDA Forest Service  
Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry



## *New infestation threatens New England forests*

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**Description:** The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), an insect from China and Korea, is a serious threat to the United States' urban and rural forests. ALB mainly targets maple, elm, and birch trees. The first U.S. infestation was found in New York City in 1996. ALB was later found in Chicago (1998); Jersey City, NJ (2002); Toronto, Canada (2003); Middlesex and Union Counties, NJ (2004); Staten Island, NY (2007); Worcester, MA (2008); and recently, on six trees in Boston, MA (July 2010). The goal is to detect, contain, and eradicate ALB by finding and destroying all infested trees.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is the lead Federal agency for ALB. Forest Service support of the lead Federal and State plant pest regulatory agencies is three pronged:

1. Provide technical and scientific support to plant pest regulatory agencies
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

### **Key Issues:**

- Eradicating ALB will cost hundreds of millions of dollars over many years, requiring stable program funding and strong Federal, State, and local commitments.
- Eradication costs will be far outweighed by the resource and economic damage prevented.
- Climbing trees is the most effective way to survey for ALB but is costly and time consuming.
- Early detection in other high-risk areas is critical.
- The Worcester infestation is the largest known outside Asia and the first to occur in a forested setting, posing a real threat of spreading throughout New England.
- ALB likely has been accidentally carried to other sites via commerce or infested firewood.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Eradicated ALB in Chicago and Jersey City. Federal, State, and local officials are working to contain and eradicate ALB at the other infested sites.
- Removed 29,000 infested and high-risk trees in Massachusetts, all but six from the Worcester area.
- Treated 106,420 trees with insecticides in New York and Massachusetts.
- Replanted trees in Worcester (3,845), Boston (12), New Jersey (6,456), and New York (5,283).
- Funded studies seeking an attractant (lure) for ALB, which could reduce high survey costs.
- Surveyed 700,000 trees in two project areas: Worcester (647,000) and Boston (37,000).
- Evaluating ALB biology in infested forests around Worcester to improve management tools.
- Provided U.S. Forest Service smokejumpers to APHIS for within-crown surveys of ALB.
- Cooperated with APHIS and State forestry and agriculture agencies on a second year of ALB regional surveys and public outreach in New England and the Mid-Atlantic States.
- Customized Forest Service ALB information products and made them available to all cooperators.
- Participated on the ALB Management Board.

**Budget History:** FY 2009 figures include \$4.487 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for the *Massachusetts Asian Longhorned Beetle Area Watershed Health and Ecological Enhancement* project, putting people to work to help restore ALB-affected areas. USDA APHIS also provided \$0.5 million to the Forest Service in FY 2009 to help replant areas in the city of Worcester. FY 2011 budget is to be determined.

<b>Asian longhorned beetle</b> (Dollars, thousands)				
<b>Source</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
SPCH	\$150	\$150	\$150	TBD
SPFH	50	50	50	TBD
ARRA and APHIS <sup>1</sup>	0	4,487	0	TBD
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$5,187</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>TBD</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes both American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for the *Massachusetts Asian Longhorned Beetle Area Watershed Health and Ecological Enhancement* project and tree replanting funding from USDA APHIS in FY 2009.

**Future Direction:**

- Continue regional ALB detection and public outreach in cooperation with USDA APHIS and State agriculture and forestry agencies, and support expansion of the program to new States as needed.
- Expand the zip code-based survey to include second homes in ALB-infested areas.
- Continue to evaluate ALB biology and population dynamics to develop better management tools.
- Continue to provide new and existing ALB information products to all partners.

For information or  
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200  
Newtown Square, PA 19073  
610-557-4103 (-4177 FAX) [barresi@fs.fed.us](mailto:barresi@fs.fed.us)

**James Barresi**, Deputy Director  
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200  
Newtown Square, PA 19073  
610-557-4103 (-4177 FAX)  
[ibarresi@fs.fed.us](mailto:ibarresi@fs.fed.us)

**Noel Schneeberger**, Entomologist  
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200  
Newtown Square, PA 19073  
610-557-4121 (-4136 FAX)  
[nschneeberger@fs.fed.us](mailto:nschneeberger@fs.fed.us)



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