Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication

New infestation threatens Ohio forests

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry

Description: The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), an insect from China and Korea, is a serious threat to urban and rural forests in the United States. 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); Boston, MA (2010); and most recently in Claremont County, OH (2011) southeast of Cincinnati. 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 regulatory 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
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 high-risk areas is critical.
- The Worcester, MA, 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.
- A recent Forest Service study shows that ALB spreads faster in forests than previously thought. We need to re-evaluate survey and containment strategies in forested environments.
- A new ALB find in Claremont County, Ohio, will stretch available resources as officials determine the scope of the infestation and carry out an eradication plan.

Accomplishments:

- Completed a study on ALB colonization of three maple species.
- Continued a regional survey and public outreach for ALB and other invasive tree pests in New England and the Mid-Atlantic States in cooperation with USDA APHIS and State forestry and agriculture agencies.
- Customized Forest Service ALB information products and made them available to all cooperators.
- Participated on the ALB Management Board.
- Conducting an ALB trapping study in cooperation with Penn State University. The artificial traps caught beetles and the data was used to modify the regulated area in Worcester. If traps can be perfected they will help make ALB surveys much less expensive and more effective in detecting ALB infestations.
- Evaluated ALB biology in infested forests around Worcester and developed recommendations to improve surveys in nonregulated forests.
- Plant pest regulatory agencies in New York deregulated the ALB-affected area on Long Island. Deregulation of the Manhattan project site is possible in 2012.
- Continued to remove infested trees in the Massachusetts project area. Plant pest regulatory agencies have removed more than 30,000 infested and high-risk trees; all but six of the removals were from the Worcester project area.

- Continued surveys of the new infestation in Ohio. Inspected more than 67,000 trees with about 5,100 trees confirmed as infested in the 56-square-mile regulated area. Developing eradication and tree replanting plans.
- Forest Service smokejumpers continued to assist with in-crown surveys of ALB in Massachusetts.
- Replanted nearly 7,900 trees in the Massachusetts project areas in 2011, bringing the total to more than 12,000 trees.

Budget History: FY 2009 funding included $4.487 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds and $0.5 million in funds from USDA APHIS. Both sources of funds were used to replant landscape trees in the areas affected by ALB in Massachusetts. The FY 2012 budget is to be determined.

Asian Longhorned Beetle *(Dollars in thousands)*				
Source	**FY 2009**	**FY 2010**	**FY 2011**	**FY 2012**
SPCH	$150	$150	0	TBD
SPFH	50	50	50	TBD
Other [1]	4,987			TBD
Totals	$5,187	$200	$50	TBD

[1]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.

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.
- Continue to evaluate ALB biology and population dynamics to develop better management tools.
- Build upon recent assessments to expand trapping and surveys in forested areas outside the historic 1.5-mile regulatory buffer.
- Continue to provide new and existing ALB information products to all partners.

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