

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 native to China and Korea, is a serious threat to the Nation's urban and rural forests. ALB mainly targets maple, elm, and birch trees, where it bores deeply into the tree, riddling the wood and causing extensive dieback and mortality. The first United States 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, Ohio (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. The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA S&PF) provides three-pronged support to APHIS and State plant pest regulatory agencies by:

- Providing technical and scientific support,
- Promoting early detection in high-risk areas where ALB has not been found, and
- Helping communities and landowners address the loss of 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. Effective alternatives are needed.
- Early detection of ALB in new areas is critical.
- The Worcester infestation is the largest known outside Asia and the first to occur in a forested setting, posing a serious threat of spreading throughout New England.
- A recent Forest Service study shows that ALB spreads faster in forests than previously thought. This will require a reevaluation of survey and containment strategies for forests.
- A new ALB find in Claremont County, Ohio, will stretch available resources as officials determine the extent of the infestation and carry out an eradication plan.

Accomplishments:

- USDA APHIS declared the beetle eradicated in parts of New York and in New Jersey after sustained, coordinated action by Federal, State, and local agencies, including NA S&PF.
- Continued a cooperative regional survey and public outreach in New England and the Mid-Atlantic States for ALB and other invasive tree pests in cooperation with USDA APHIS and State plant pest agencies.
- Customized Forest Service ALB information products and made them available to all cooperators.
- Participated on the ALB Management Board.
- Supported an ALB trapping study in cooperation with Penn State University. The artificial traps, though still crude, caught some beetles. The data was used to adjust the regulated area in Worcester.

Further improvements in traps and lures will help make ALB surveys more effective and much less expensive.

- Evaluated beetle biology in infested forests around Worcester, MA, and recommended ways to improve surveys in unregulated forested areas. NA S&PF helped carry out an enhanced survey plan with State and Federal partners; 1,500 baited traps were deployed. One new area was detected as a result of the traps.
- Infested trees and subsequent removals are continuing in the Massachusetts project area. More than 31,000 infested and high-risk trees have been removed by plant pest regulatory agencies; all but six of the removals have come from the Worcester project area.
- More than 14,000 trees have been replanted in ALB-affected areas in Massachusetts, including 2,387 trees in 2012.
- No new infestations have been found in New Jersey since 2006 or in Staten Island, NY, since 2009. The last ALB detection in New York project areas was in Brooklyn in 2010.
- Surveys are in progress to uncover the extent of the new Ohio infestation. Field staff have inspected 210,000 trees and found roughly 9,200 of them to be infested. More than 8,900 trees were removed from the 61-square-mile regulated area. Personnel are developing plans for eradication treatments and tree replanting.
- Provided survey assistance to USDA APHIS and State agencies in Claremont County, Ohio.
- Continued our participation on ALB Management Boards in Massachusetts, New York, and Ohio.
- Completed and printed a field guide for ALB and its host trees in cooperation with the University of Vermont.

Budget History:

Asian Longhorned Beetle <i>(dollars, thousands)</i>				
Source	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Cooperative Lands, Forest Health Management	\$150	0	0	TBD
Federal Lands, Forest Health Management	50	50	50	TBD
Totals	\$200	\$50	\$50	TBD

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 on recent assessments of infested areas, and expand surveys and trapping in forests outside the historic 1.5-mile regulatory buffer.
- Continue trapping to augment the visual survey in Worcester County.
- Promote ALB awareness to businesses, arborists, and individuals most likely to encounter ALB, which will increase the likelihood of detecting the insect if it occurs in other areas.
- Continue to provide new and existing ALB information products to all partners.

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