



Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) Cooperative Eradication Program Boston Update – Aug 17, 2010

Media contacts:
Boston ALB Media Office 617-894-8014
MA ALB Media Office 508-852-8044

Key Message: Residents of the ALB regulated area established within Suffolk and Norfolk counties are asked to refrain from moving firewood and wood debris outside the regulated area. Report suspects Asian Longhorned Beetles to 866-702-9938.

Number of ALB infested trees confirmed in the Boston project area	6
Number of ALB infested trees removed	6
Number of trees surveyed during this reporting period	16
Number of trees confirmed ALB infested during this reporting period	0
Total number of trees surveyed in the Boston program area to date	19,308

Survey Activity: During the week of Aug 16-21 ALB Project personnel will conduct visual surveys of trees in the Roslindale area. APHIS and cooperating State inspectors survey for ALB by examining individual host trees from the ground for signs of beetle damage. Tree climbers also perform searches in host-tree canopies, carefully examining every tree limb and branch for signs of ALB infestation.

ALB Information Meetings this week: DAR train-the-trainer: Tuesday, August 17, 6:30-7:30 pm., Charles River Conservancy, 4 Brattle Street, Cambridge (**canceled**) and Wednesday, August 18, 6-7:30 pm., Doyle Center, Leominster. Showing of “Bugged”, Thursday, August 19, 5:15pm., Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford, Cambridge

Background: On July 3, 2010 USDA/APHIS agriculture officials confirmed the presence of Asian Longhorned Beetle on the grounds of Faulkner Hospital. Five infested red maple trees were identified initially and one additional infested red maple was identified on July 5, 2010. The six infested trees were removed on July 6, 2010. On July 6, a press conference was held at Faulkner Hospital announcing the find. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and USDA/APHIS have established a regulated area covering portions of Suffolk and Norfolk counties.

Scientific evaluation of the infested trees and their date of planting confirms that those trees were not infested at the time of planting on Faulkner Hospital grounds. Results of DNA analysis indicate the ALB specimens from Boston are genetically similar, but with slight variation, to ALB in Worcester and New York. This does not rule out a foreign introduction as a possible source. Program staff continues to investigate potential pathways of this invasive species introduction but may never know the source with certainty.

The Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) (ALB) is an invasive pest from Asia that came to the United States concealed in solid wood packing material, the pallets and crates used to transport goods from overseas. ALB was first detected in the United States in 1996 in Brooklyn, NY.

Resources:

ALB informational and reporting website:

www.BeetleBusters.info

ALB Information from the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/>

ALB Map of the regulated portions of Suffolk and Norfolk counties

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/ALB%20RegulatedArea%20map.pdf>

ALB Information from the MA Department of Agricultural Resources

<http://www.mass.gov/agr/alb.htm>

ALB Information from USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/index.shtml

ALB Information from U.S. Forest Service

<http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/alb/>