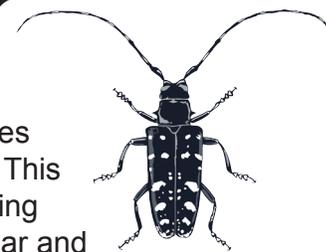


# Pest Alert: LEARN TO RECOGNIZE ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE TREE DAMAGE



Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*, "ALB") is an invasive species discovered in Worcester, MA in August of 2008 and Boston, MA in July of 2010. This wood-boring beetle, thought to have been introduced to the USA via wood packing material from China, attacks hardwood trees including maple, birch, willow, poplar and elm. There is no cure for this pest once it attacks a tree. To date, more than 18,000 infested trees have been found in Worcester, and all will have to be removed and replaced. Six trees have been found in Boston.

During fall and winter, the damage to the trunk and branches of trees is much easier to see. Birders, cross country skiers, hikers, or anyone spending time outdoors this fall and winter can help protect the state from Asian longhorned beetle by learning to recognize the signs of an ALB infestation:

- Try to figure out what kind of tree you are looking at. ALB likes hardwood trees, particularly maple, but stays away from oak and cherry. It does not attack conifers like pine or spruce.
- Asian longhorned beetle adults dig pits in the bark of the tree to lay their eggs. These "oviposition sites" are  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch across, and look similar to a small bite taken out of an apple.
- The exit holes that the adults leave as they emerge from the tree are about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch in diameter, and are perfectly round.
- If you see what looks like an exit hole and it can easily be reached, try to fit the eraser end of a pencil into the hole. If goes in at least one inch deep, contact MDAR immediately.
- ALB typically leaves exit holes spread out across a tree, leaving room for each larva to develop. Series of holes together in a line are often caused by woodpeckers or sapsuckers.

In summer, keep an eye out for adult beetles (shiny black with white spots), and for fresh egg-laying sites with sap weeping from them. If you see sawdust-like wood shavings in the crooks of branches or around the base of the tree, check the upper branches for exit holes or egg-laying sites.



Wood from a heavily infested maple tree in Worcester, MA, with numerous exit holes and egg-laying sites.



Exit hole in birch, approx. actual size.



Fresh oviposition pit (top) and older pit that has begun to heal over (bottom).

Report any suspicious tree damage to <http://massnrc.org/pests/alb>

Or call the toll-free ALB hotline: 1-866-702-9938.

