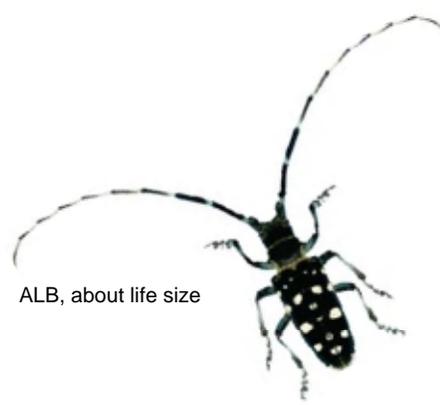


What You Should Know about the Asian Longhorned Beetle



ALB, about life size

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1. The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) was first discovered in Brooklyn, NY in 1996. Since then, infestations were found in and around New York City, including on Long Island and in Queens and Flushing Park. Several infested trees were removed around Central Park, where over 20,000 potential host trees grow.
2. It was discovered in Chicago in July 1998. In the last two years, few live beetles or infested trees have been found in the Chicago area, but public awareness and eradication actions are continuing.
3. It was discovered in Jersey City, NJ, across the river from NYC in October 2002. Inspectors believe this infestation started 4-5 years ago. A second infestation was detected in Carteret in August 2004. Over 4,000 ALB host trees were cut down in NJ to stem its spread.
4. It was found in the Toronto, Canada area in September 2003. Based on the extent of the damage, inspectors believe this infestation has been there for 4-6 years. Over 24,000 susceptible trees have been cut down.
5. Over 6,000 infested trees have been cut down and destroyed to eradicate ALB from New York; over 1,550 trees in Chicago and more than 600 in New Jersey. Infested trees continue to be discovered. Surveys will continue for several years and all infested trees will be destroyed until no beetles are found.
6. ALB and other related species have been intercepted in warehouses in several states (PA, MI, WI, IL, OH, CA, TX, NJ, SC, NC, FL, WA, IN, NY, HI). It has also been found in Canadian warehouses.
7. ALB is not known to occur in trees except in New York, New Jersey, Illinois and Toronto, CA. Infestations have been found in Austria and Italy.
8. Effective survey is difficult, resulting in infested trees going undetected. The general public has found most of the infestations. Their help with finding infested trees is critical.
9. ALB usually enters the U.S. in wood packing materials (pallets, crates, dunnage, etc.) used to ship pipe, granite blocks, and heavy machinery, etc.
10. Sugar maple is a favored ALB host. They also feed on other maple species (e.g., Norway), birch, willow, horsechestnut, poplar, ash, black locust, apple and more.
11. ALB kills trees. Limbs weakened by ALB feeding are a risk in sugarbushes and forests as well as urban and suburban areas.
12. Based on its distribution in China, researchers believe that ALB is able to survive climatic conditions that exist from southern Canada to Virginia.
13. Several billion dollars have been spent so far on eradicating the ALB.
14. All ALB infestations are believed to originate in China, but it occurs in other Asian countries.
15. Research is underway to develop biological and chemical controls, as well as effective survey methods.
16. To reduce risks of the entry of this beetle, the USDA implemented regulations requiring all wood packing material from China to be treated before shipment to the U.S.
17. The USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is treating thousands of trees in NYC, IL and NJ with the systemic insecticide, imidacloprid, in the hope of preventing further infestations.

Visit the following web pages for more information:

Univ. of Vermont: <http://www.uvm.edu/albeetle>
Forest Service: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/alb/>
USDA, APHIS: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/alb/alb.html>