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## More trees fall to Asian beetle

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### STAFF REPORT

UNION COUNTY — The battle against the Asian longhorned beetle continues with the removal of approximately 50 mature infested trees and nearby high-risk host trees in Linden between the New Jersey Turnpike and the Arthur Kill.

Meanwhile, the quarantine zone is being expanded into a part of Clark after an infested tree was found in northwestern Linden two months ago, according to the state Department of Agriculture.

The new quarantine zone extends into a small section of eastern Clark, making the township the seventh municipality to be impacted by the Middlesex County and Union County quarantine.

Work begun to remove the trees in Linden by the Turnpike marks the start of eradication in an area that officials believe has served as the starting point for the beetle to infest other trees in Union County, the Department of Agriculture said in a release.

Personnel began looking at the industrial area after individual trees in parts of Linden were infested without large numbers of trees surrounding them showing signs of the beetle. Computer modeling suggested the beetles may have been coming from the industrial area, which at the time was outside the existing quarantine zone. A subsequent survey of that area found additional infestation.

The quarantine began in 2004 when infested trees were found in Carteret, Rahway, Woodbridge and Linden. The area has expanded as new areas have surfaced in Linden as well as Roselle, Elizabeth and Clark.

So far no infested trees have been found in Roselle or Elizabeth. Ground surveying will be conducted in the coming weeks on trees in northwestern Linden and the eastern corner of Clark, now included in the quarantine zone, to ensure the beetle has not spread.

As of mid-May, 579 infested trees have been detected in Middlesex and Union counties and 529 trees have been removed. In addition, 16,614 high-risk host trees have been removed from the area since November 2004.

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