

## Pest Alert! Be on the lookout!



While you're out walking in the woods, be on the lookout. The **Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)** is large, ranging from 0.75-1.25 inches long, with very long black and white antennae. The body is glossy black (like patent leather) with irregular white spots. These beetles feed on many species of hardwood trees. Adults can be seen from late spring to fall depending on the climate. This beetle was introduced from China and was thought to be limited to areas within the cities of Chicago and New York, however it was recently discovered in Worcester MA and as of this past year, 28,000 trees were chipped in order to eradicate this very invasive pest. Yes, you read that figure right; twenty-eight-**thousand** trees chipped to the ground just to the south of us.

Where did they come from? This beetle is native to China and Korea. It was first found infesting trees in New York in August 1996. It is believed that ALB entered the U.S. in solid wood packing material holding pipes that were shipped from China for a project in the 1980's.

What do they eat? They feast on hardwood trees. Adults usually stay on the trees from which they emerge or they may disperse short distances to a new host tree to feed and reproduce. Each female usually lays 35-90 eggs during her lifetime. The eggs hatch in 10-15 days. The larvae feed under the bark in the living tissue of the tree for a period of time and then bore deep into the wood where they pupate. The adults emerge from pupation sites by boring a tunnel in the wood and creating a round exit hole in the tree. Red, Silver and Sugar Maples, Birch, Ash, Poplar, Willow, Elm, Horse Chestnut, Buckeye, Box Elder, and Sycamore are all on their "favorites" list. Questionable hosts include Oak,

Cherry, Mulberry, Rose-of-Sharon, Apple, Crab Apple and Pear. Trees that they prefer can be found all over Dublin, in our backyards, mountain sides and wooded areas – exactly where you might walk the dog, ride the horse or take a hike. Because this beetle attacks many different tree species, it could significantly disrupt our forest ecosystem and livelihood if it establishes itself here. Our lumber, wood products and maple syrup production would all be at risk. The only means of control, at the moment, are to fully chip the host tree to below the soil level as well as all surrounding trees (the beetle cannot survive in the wood chips). In some instances, the trees are burned. There are no chemical or biological control methods currently known.

What can YOU do? Early detection of infestations and rapid treatment response are crucial to the successful eradication of the beetle. While you're out walking in the woods, be on the lookout.

What to look for: 1) Adult beetles. Individuals are 3/4 to 1-1/4 inches long with jet-black body and mottled white spots on the back. The long antennae are 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 times the body length with distinctive black and white bands on each segment. The feet have a bluish tinge. 2) Oval to round pits in the bark. These egg-laying sites or niches are chewed out by the female beetle and a single egg is deposited in each niche. 3) Oozing sap. In the summer, sap may flow from egg niches, especially on maple trees, as the larvae feed inside the tree. 4) Accumulation of coarse sawdust around the base of infested trees, where branches meet the main stem. This sawdust is created by the beetle larvae as they bore into the main tree stem and branches. 5) Round holes, 3/4 inch in diameter or larger, on the trunk and on branches. These exit holes are made by adult beetles as they emerge from the tree.

If you suspect you have seen an Asian Longhorned Beetle, please note the location (street/trail/etc, as well as where the damage is on the tree), collect an adult beetle in a jar (they can eat through plastic bags and escape), place the jar in the freezer, and immediately notify NE ALB official, Steven Roberge, at 603-352-4550. Every sighting is considered serious and will be investigated.

Additional information can be found at <http://extension.unh.edu/ALB/>. There are a few pamphlets at Town Hall as well.

Look alikes (these are common to our area and are not considered a threat) :

Sugar Maple Borer:



Whitespotted Pine Sawyer:



Submitted by Sue Yarger, Dublin Conservation Commission