

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES IN 2008

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Eradication Successes

In 2008, the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) program announced the eradication ALB in two previously infested areas—Hudson County, NJ, on April 7 and Chicago, IL, on April 17. Hudson County was a small infested site just west of Manhattan, NY. The first and last ALB detection was in October 2002. One hundred thirteen infested and 348 high risk host trees were removed. Four years of survey and 3 years of chemical treatment were completed to ensure ALB was eradicated from the area. ALB was first detected in Chicago in July 1998. At its peak, 35 square miles were quarantined. The program removed 1,551 infested and 220 high risk host trees from the area. In addition, host trees in a 61 square mile area were surveyed for 4 years and trees in the core infested area were treated a minimum of 3 years. The last detection in Chicago was in November 2003. Early cooperation among Federal, State, and local agencies made the program a success.

Illinois – Deerfield

On August 5, one adult ALB collected in Deerfield, IL was confirmed by the USDA Systematic Entomological Laboratory. The beetle was found by an alert individual in a Deerfield parking lot located about 12 miles north of the northern boundary of the previously regulated area of Chicago. Surveyors examined 9,511 primary host trees. APHIS officials investigated companies within the surrounding area who imported cargo from Asia as a potential source of introduction. In addition, information was sent to 343 green industry contacts asking for assistance in locating the source of the beetle. No infested trees were identified in Deerfield, Northbrook, Northfield Township, or Highland Park. A public outreach campaign will be executed in 2009 to assist the program in possibly locating the source of the beetle.

New York

In New York, eradication activities are ongoing. There is a 140 square mile quarantine in effect. Ground surveys continue in all program areas with climbing surveys focused in Islip to confirm that there are no remaining ALB infested trees in the area. These surveys will continue through 2009 in Islip and Staten Island to delimit the infestation.

In 2008, 52 infested trees were discovered in infested areas of New York: 49 in Brooklyn, one in Queens, and two in Central Long Island. Additionally, on December 31, 2008, 12 infested trees were found in the Staten Island quarantined area as a result of the delimitation surveys being conducted in response to the 2007 detections on Prall's and Staten Islands. Initial aging suggests these trees were first infested in 2005. Scientists are proposing that these infested trees could have been the result of dispersal from the nearby infestation detected in 2007. The infested trees will be removed as well as 25 high risk host trees in the immediate area. The regulated area will expand 2 square miles to the east in response to this detection and an additional 8,200 trees will be treated in spring 2009. Survey activities will also expand.

In 2008, chemical treatments were applied to 49,404 ALB host trees in sections of New York: 14,670 in Queens, 34,734 in Brooklyn, and 17,927 in Staten Island. In 2009, approximately 40,000 trees are anticipated to be treated in sections of Brooklyn and Queens; 26,100 trees will be treated in Staten Island.

New Jersey – Middlesex/Union Counties

In May 2008, the delimitation survey (utilizing climbing, bucket trucks, and ground surveyors) of the 25 square

mile New Jersey quarantine was completed. No infested trees have been detected since 2006. With the completion of the delimitation survey in New Jersey, resources were moved to Staten Island to work on the delimitation of that area.

In 2008, chemical treatments were applied to 12,370 ALB host trees in Carteret, Linden, and Roselle. Treatments were reduced by approximately 58 percent since 3 years of chemical treatment were realized in 2007 within the infested areas of Avenel, Rahway, the majority of Carteret, and sections of Linden and Roselle. In the spring of 2008, New Jersey State Forestry planted 749 ALB nonhost trees.

Massachusetts

On August 1, 2008, an ALB infestation was detected in Worcester, MA. This was the first find in the State and was most likely a separate introduction from other ALB detections, since the core infested area is in a light industrial area consisting of companies that import or have imported products from Asia. Personnel were deployed by APHIS, U.S. Forest Service, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the city of Worcester to survey the area.

In 2008 a total of 6,431 infested trees were detected, three in West Boylston and the remainder in Worcester. Sixty-four square miles are currently regulated by APHIS and the state of Massachusetts, including the entire city of Worcester and portions of the towns of Holden, Boylston, West Boylston, and Shrewsbury. In order to control the disposal of wood

from the regulated area, a centralized disposal site has been established for use by the regulated municipalities and companies working within the regulated area.

On December 11, 2008, a severe ice storm hit New England. Significant tree damage and limb loss occurred within a 16-square-mile area covering the core of the ALB infestation. The ice storm created a very large volume of woody debris in the core infested area that required proper disposal to prevent spread of the infestation. Compliance trainings were offered on a daily basis to accommodate the influx of contractors working on debris removal in the ALB regulated area, and the state issued emergency debris removal contracts to assist the infested municipalities in clean-up operations. On January 5, 2009, a federal disaster declaration for public assistance was issued. APHIS received a technical assistance mission assignment from FEMA to provide guidance in the clean-up efforts.

Host removals began on January 5, 2009. Both infested and high risk host trees are being removed within the 2 square mile heavily infested core area. Ninety-two percent of private property owners within this 2-square-mile area are allowing complete host removal from their properties. Approximately 25,000 host trees are projected for removal in 2009. Forty percent of the trees (approximately 10,000), are less than 5 inches d.b.h..

For further information, refer to the APHIS ALB web site at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot_issues/alb/alb.shtml