

MASSACHUSETTS ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE COOPERATIVE ERADICATION PROGRAM

September 3, 2008

Dear Business Owner:

On August 6, 2008, officials from the United States Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of the Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis* – ALB) in Worcester. This invasive insect is a destructive and costly threat to our hardwood trees. It is known to infest tree species such as maple (including Norway, sugar, silver, red, and others), horsechestnut, birch, poplar, willow, elm, and ash (also known as “host trees”). The ALB will kill infested trees and will continue to spread to adjacent host trees, with the same end result, if left unchecked.

An approximate 33 square mile area comprised of the northern section within the City of Worcester and portions of the surrounding towns of Holden, West Boylston, Boylston, and Shrewsbury is now under strict regulation to contain this infestation by order of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the actions of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. This order is in place to prevent movement or transport of ALB regulated materials from any infested and/or host tree from this regulated area to areas outside of this zone, unless chipped to less than one inch in two dimensions.

ALB regulated materials include: live beetles, firewood (all hardwood species), green lumber, plant material living, dead, cut, or fallen (inclusive of nursery stock), logs, stumps, roots, branches, twigs or other woody material, and debris of one-half inch or more in diameter from any of the following genera: *Acer* (maple), *Aesculus* (horsechestnut), *Albizia* (mimosa), *Betula* (birch), *Celtis* (hackberry), *Fraxinus* (ash), *Platanus* (sycamore), *Populus* (poplar), *Salix* (willow), *Sorbus* (mountain ash), and *Ulmus* (elm).

Due to the nature of your business, we request your full cooperation and compliance to prevent the further spread of infestation. All businesses (e.g., landscaping, construction companies, nurseries, tree removal services, firewood dealers, and others) performing work in the regulated area are required to comply with these regulations. In order to facilitate this process, companies should enter into a compliance agreement with Federal and State authorities. This will require the successful completion of a two-hour training and certification workshop with the Massachusetts ALB Cooperative Eradication Program to continue operations within this regulated area. Companies that do not enter into a compliance



USDA ALB Worcester Office ▪ 50 Skyline Drive ▪ Worcester, MA 01604 ▪ 508-799-8330

agreement must be approved by Federal and State authorities each time work is conducted within the regulated area.

Training workshops are scheduled on **Wednesday, September 10th from 6 p.m.—8 p.m. and Saturday, September 13th from 9 a.m.—11 a.m.** Both workshops will take place at **the Worcester Technical High School, One Skyline Drive, Fuller Auditorium.** You can register for one of these two sessions at www.worcesterma.gov and can complete the registration form (**titled Contractor Compliance Training and Certification Program**) or you may contact 508-799-8330 to sign-up. If you and/or your employees are unable to attend one of these two sessions, please contact 508-799-8330 to place your name on a list for the next available training workshop (so we may accommodate your schedule).

Your employees and you will receive comprehensive training on the compliance program, including how to properly dispose of host material through chipping to USDA specification, the proper removal and/or transport of wood that cannot be chipped to USDA specification, hours of operations and access procedures at approved City-established disposal sites, an understanding of the regulations and/or protocols, and reporting procedures for detection of the infestation. As mentioned, the workshop should last approximately two hours.

Please note that any wood materials that can be chipped to USDA specification should be done on site. Approved disposal and processing centers for wood materials that cannot be chipped to specification have been established by the City. Upon completion of training and certification, compliant businesses will be able to dispose of host wood products that cannot be chipped on site at no cost. Procedures will be outlined at the training workshop to include permits for disposal and identification stickers for company vehicles. Regulatory officers will conduct compliance surveillance within the regulated area and fines can result if businesses are not in compliance with Federal and State regulations.

Between now and the time of your company's training and certification, questions regarding the movement of any regulated materials should be directed to the Massachusetts ALB Cooperative Eradication Program at 508-799-8330. The ALB Program compliance staff will work with your company to facilitate your safe, approved transport and disposal of regulated items to the disposal and processing center.

Please be sure to register for a training session as soon as possible. We will continue to post information online at www.worcesterma.gov to keep you informed. Please contact 508-799-8330 if you have any questions. We thank you in advance for your support, cooperation and participation to prevent the further spread of the infestation.

Sincerely,

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City Manager
City of Worcester

Christine Markham
National Program Director
USDA APHIS PPQ
ALB Eradication Program

Commissioner Rick Sullivan
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Dept. of Conservation and Recreation