



August 19, 2008

## PEST ALERT: ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

Dear Business Owner:

On August 6, 2008, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed the identification of Asian Longhorned Beetles (ALB) in Worcester, Massachusetts. This is the first detection of ALB in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Asian Longhorned Beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, is a foreign insect that bores into and kills a variety of tree species, including maple, elm, willow, birch, horsechestnut, London planetree/sycamore, poplar, ash, mimosa (silktree) hackberry and mountain ash. Federal, State and City officials are conducting an assessment of the infestation and are coordinating an action plan.

To prevent the spread of further infestation, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation has established a "regulated area" in which residents and businesses are prohibited from moving or transferring ALB regulated materials (including firewood (all hardwood species), live beetles, and wood, logs, stumps, roots, branches, leaves, and green lumber from ALB host trees) from the regulated area. **At this time, the regulated area includes portions of Worcester, Boylston, Holden, Shrewsbury, and West Boylston.**

Until further notice, all companies that prune and/or remove host trees inside the regulated area must chip all woody materials from tree removal or pruning on-site. Materials too large to chip must remain on-site until a disposal protocol is implemented. **Only wood that is chipped to less than 1" in two dimensions may be hauled out of the regulated area.** Removing host material that is not properly chipped out of the regulated area can potentially spread the infestation to other areas. The compliance program is nearly set for implementation. This will include a defined contractor drop-off location for regulated material that cannot be chipped on-site.

Enclosed is a map of the regulated area as of August 19, 2008 and information on the Asian Longhorned Beetle. **It is critically important that if your staff or you discover the Asian Longhorned Beetle at your work site within or outside the regulated area that you contact USDA Worcester ALB Offices at 508-799-8330** for further action. We also request that the potential infested tree you have discovered remain untouched if

within your planned or contracted work area until it is inspected and confirmed to be infested by USDA. All infested trees must be removed and chipped by USDA. As per eradication protocols, these infested trees will be removed after the first, heavy frost and will be chipped on-site to USDA specification or be removed to the designated USDA staging area (to be determined) for processing within the regulated area. We will notify you promptly once the drop-off location for regulated material is available.

If your company conducted work removing and/or pruning host trees within the regulated area over the past few years or is currently conducting work within that area, please contact USDA at 508-799-8330. We appreciate your cooperation during this time.

Sincerely,

Christine Markham  
National Program Director  
USDA APHIS PPQ  
ALB Eradication Program

Commissioner Rick Sullivan  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Conservation and Recreation

City Manager Michael V. O'Brien  
City of Worcester

Enclosures: ALB Fact Sheet  
Map of Regulated Area as of August 19, 2008