

Forest Health Alert

Asian Longhorned Beetle

(*Anoplophora glabripennis*)



Law, Kenneth R., USDA APHIS PPQ, www.forestryimages.org



The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) is an insect native to China and Korea. In the 1990s it was inadvertently brought to the United States in wooden pallets used as packing materials for Asian goods. The beetle escaped from port areas and established itself in native forests in a number of sites in New York, New Jersey, and Illinois.

ALB feeds on several types of trees but appears to prefer the maples. Females lay eggs in the bark of the tree and larvae tunnel into the wood, where they eat and mature. Eventually the new adults emerge, leaving many 3/8" holes that weaken the tree, open it to infection, and can lead to breakage. Infested trees die within a few years.

ALB is of concern in Delaware because maples are important components of our rural and urban forests. Red maple is the most common tree in Delaware's native forests. Various maples are widely planted in towns and cities around the state. Therefore, it is very important to prevent ALB from becoming established in Delaware.

Federal authorities are working with state and local agencies in New York and New Jersey to eradicate ALB where it has been found. Officials in Delaware monitor the situation in these other States and work to ensure that ALB is not introduced directly into our ports by shipping materials arriving from Asia.



Delaware Forest Service • 1-800-282-8685
2320 S. DuPont Hwy. • Dover, DE 19901
<http://dda.delaware.gov/forestry>