

Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Project 2010

Talking Points for Asian longhorned beetle (ALB)

- ALB is an invasive woodboring beetle that was first found in the United States in 1996 in the New York City area. It has since been found in Illinois, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Toronto, Canada.
- ALB was discovered in Worcester, Massachusetts in 2008. This is the first, and only, infestation in New England and is believed to have been there 10 years before being discovered.
- ALB attacks a variety of hardwood trees essential to Maine's forests, landscapes and economy: maples, birch, willow, elm, poplar, horsechestnut, mountain ash, ash, and others.
- Maples are the most often infested species.
- Damage will impact: hardwood lumber production; maple syrup production; landscape plantings; tourism; street trees and more.
- It is believed that ALB came from China in solid wood packing materials (pallets, crates, etc.) that were infested.
- ALB may be spread through firewood, infested nursery stock, other wood products such as logs, pallets, etc. Do not move these materials out of quarantined areas. **Do not move firewood.**
- ALB is 1-1.5 inches long, exclusive of antennae. Antennae are as long as the body in females and twice as long in males and have distinct black and white alternating bands. The bodies are shiny black and smooth with several distinct, irregular-shaped white, or in rare occasions yellow, spots on the wing covers.
- Most invasive insects are found by the general public, not by experts, so it is important to make people aware of the threat.
- Look for the adult beetle July – October.
- Look for perfectly round 3/8 to 1/2 inch diameter exit holes; frass – sawdust and feces pushed from tunnels; and oviposition scars – small, irregular, oval depressions in bark created by chewing.
- The native whitespotted sawyer is a common look-alike - it is bronzy black (not shiny) with indistinct white patches and one large white spot between the top of the wing covers; attacks conifers and is active May – September.
- If you find a suspect beetle – capture it (freeze it) or take a really good picture of it; note where you saw it (location, type of tree). Call Maine Dept. of Agriculture 287-3891, or report it online at www.albmaine.org.