



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Plant Protection
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Eastern Region

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Homeowners Notice
Clarification on Treatment Efforts for Asian Longhorned Beetle

The discovery of the invasive and destructive Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) in central Massachusetts has prompted the creation of a 64-square mile regulated area in Worcester County where activities are taking place to eradicate the invasive beetle. The regulated area currently incorporates the entire City of Worcester, as well as parts of Holden, Boylston, West Boylston and Shrewsbury. This notice is to provide updated information about one facet of the Massachusetts Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program (ALB Program) to take place within this regulated area—chemical treatments for those tree species able to host ALB populations (ALB host trees).

The ALB Eradication Program's strategic plan elements work together to stop the ALB from spreading through human activities and to eliminate reproducing beetle populations that exist. Eradication protocols include surveys to determine the location and scope of infestations and regulatory measures to control the movement of wood and woody debris in an ALB regulated area. These measures were put into effect in Worcester County in the days and weeks following the August 1, 2008 beetle detection. Another eradication protocol is cutting and chipping infested and high-risk host trees, an effort which began on January 5, 2009. Planting trees in communities to mitigate the impact of removals and educating the public about the insect are also important program activities. Another critical ALB Program element is the chemical treatments provided to ALB host trees to reduce beetle populations.

Through the ALB Program's eradication effort, contractors secured by ALB Program officials apply a systemic insecticide to designated ALB host trees within the regulated area at no charge to property owners. Treatment by ALB Program contractors takes place during spring months and is directed to ALB host trees that are within a one-half mile radius of infested tree locations. ALB Program contracted treatment takes place annually for a minimum of three consecutive years.

There has been interest expressed in private treatment by homeowners residing inside or outside of the ALB regulated area. It was previously stated that "There are no over-the-counter treatments formulated to successfully address the ALB." This statement is inaccurate. Homeowners interested in pursuing chemical applications independently



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