

Rhode Island Forest Conservators Organization  
Fall News Letter

Status Report on Asian Longhorned Beetle in Rhode Island  
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Through a cooperative effort with USDA and Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) coordinated a comprehensive survey for the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) in Rhode Island this August. The ALB has been responsible for the loss of over 20,000 trees in Worcester County, Massachusetts since August 2008. ALB historically enters the United States through solid wood packing materials in industrialized areas. The cities of Warwick and Cranston were targeted as high risk areas because of their expansive levels of enterprise.

Two areas in each of these cities were surveyed by volunteers in the last two weeks of August. The surveys consisted of studying areas identified by the USDA in 1/8 mile segments. Volunteer survey participants scanned each host tree in designated areas with binoculars from the top to bottom looking at the trunk and branches. The volunteers were trained to search each tree for signs and symptoms of ALB, such as egg-laying niches, exit holes, coarse frass (or wood chips), and live adult beetles.

After the four days of surveying, no signs of the beetle were found in any of the areas. This does not mean, however, that Rhode Island is clear of ALB and its potential devastation. We are encouraging all Rhode Island residents to be aware of this problem, and to be on the look-out. The host trees of ALB include maple, elm, ash, willow, birch and poplar. Beetles chew into the bark of these host trees and lay 60-90 eggs each summer. The larvae tunnel deep into the heartwood of these trees and emerge around August leaving dime-sized exit holes. Please stay aware of this potential problem and help keep Rhode Island's tree resources safe!

For more information regarding the Asian Longhorned Beetle, please contact either Kate Sayles of RI Tree Council at (401)764-5885, or [albfreeri@gmail.com](mailto:albfreeri@gmail.com) or Liz Lopes-Duguay of DEM at (401)222-2781 x4510.