

Citizen Volunteer Pest Survey



Goals

- Partner with volunteer organizations to promote public awareness
- Obtain support of volunteers to survey for invasive species and report positive and negative results
- Evaluate usefulness of volunteer survey data

Asian Longhorned Beetle Identification Guide



Signs of ALB Infestation



Asian longhorned beetle



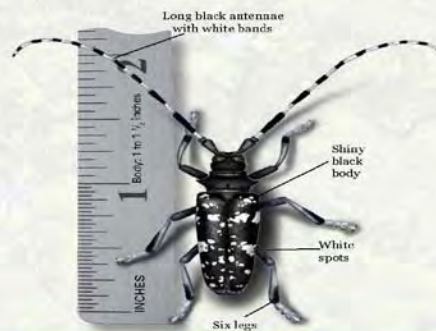
Dime-sized exit holes



Tree trunk riddled with exit holes



Yellowing or drooping leaves or dead branches



Primary Host Trees



Birch



Horsechestnut



Maple



Willow

Instructions for searching for ALB

1. Locate at least 10 host trees on your property or on public property (such as street trees) near your residence
2. Spend a minute or two carefully examining each tree for signs of ALB infestation, especially beetles and dime-sized exit holes
3. If you observe beetles or evidence of ALB damage, contact your USDA State Plant Health Director. It would be a good idea to try to capture insects you think are ALB, place them in a jar and freeze them. Take digital pictures of the insect and damage to your trees if you can.
4. It is extremely important that we know the results of your observations, even if you saw no signs of ALB, so please completely fill out and return the enclosed data card as soon as possible.

For information about the ALB, please visit <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/> and click on Asian longhorned beetle under "Hot Issues" at the bottom of the page.

Asian Longhorned Beetle Survey Data Card

Date of observations (dd/mm/yy) _____

Location of observations:

Street address or closest intersection _____

City _____

Zip Code _____

Number of host trees examined _____

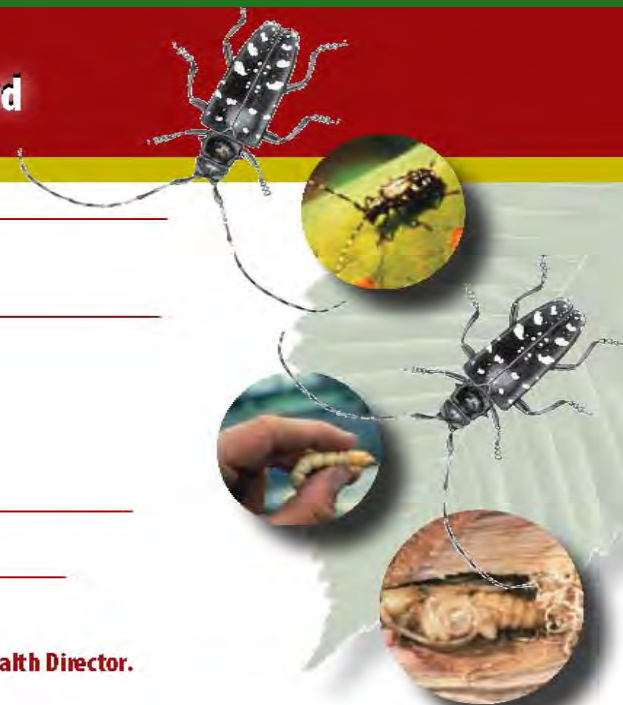
Total time spent searching for signs of Asian longhorned beetles _____

**If you did not observe signs of ALB infestation of your trees, check here _____
and drop this card in the mail.**

If you suspect ALB infestation of your trees, call your local State Plant Health Director.

If you would like additional survey kits to share with others, please call _____

Comments: _____



2009 Pilot Results

State	Partner	Mailings	Postcards Returned	Percentage Returned
Michigan	The Nature Conservancy	5000	553	11
Delaware	Delaware Nature Conservancy	2075	150	7
	Cooperative Ext. Master Gardeners			
	State Fair Visitors			

No ALBs Detected

2010 Expanded Pilot

Goals

- Conduct Pilot on large scale to survey for ALB in 15 states and EAB in 17 states
- Evaluate paperless approach utilizing emails and websites to collect survey data

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine




Beetle Detectives - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.beetledetectives.com/


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Beetle Detectives


ALB Fact Sheet EAB Fact Sheet




 **BEETLE** *Detectives*

Welcome beetle detectives. Thank you for participating in the search for signs of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle. Report your findings and watch your organization's plant grow as you rise in the beetle detective rankings!

 **Report Your Findings**

 **Ace Beetle Detectives**

About The ALB & EAB 

Group	Location	Reports Submitted	Ranking
Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteers	Ohio	10	
Master Naturalists	Minnesota	7	
Bloomfield AG Connecticut	Connecticut	6	


Internet 100%


Beetle Detectives - Windows Internet Explorer


http://www.beetledetectives.com/ Live Search

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Beetle Detectives

 **Report Your Findings**

 **Ace Beetle Detectives**

 **About The ALB & EAB**

Please fill out the following form to report your findings online. If you are younger than 18 years of age, please ask a parent, guardian or trusted adult to help you submit your report.

If you have a positive sighting, you should report it immediately.

Reporting observations for: ☒ ALB ☐ EAB ☐ Both ALB & EAB

Contact Information

Organization: Connecticut—Connecticut Greenhouse ▼

First Name:

Last Name:

City:

State: Connecticut ▼

Zip Code:

Phone number or email address:

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Beetle Detectives

Observations for Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)



If you detected signs of ALB, did you report this to the USDA, APHIS, PPQ State Plant Health Director or State Dept. of Agriculture?

☐ Yes ☐ No

IF NO, CALL **203 269 4277**
Citizen Volunteer Survey.CT@aphis.usda.gov

Date(s) of search (mm/dd/yyyy):

Location of search:

Street address or closest intersection:

City: Zip Code:

Number of trees: Types of trees:

Did you find any signs of ALB?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe the beetle and/or damage (size, shape and color): 255 characters remaining

Did you collect a specimen of an ALB?

If you photographed the insect or damage, upload photos here (maximum 3 uploads):

Upload

Internet 100%

Results

- Over 85 organizations agreed to participate
- 29 organizations with one or more surveys submitted
- 70 surveys submitted
- 12 states with survey results

Findings

- Direct mailing of citizen volunteers works well
- Postcard is a good reminder to volunteers
- Direct mailing through organizations can be problematic, given privacy rights of members
- Soliciting volunteers via email does not work as well as regular mail
- Organizations could not edit PDF template letter and did not participate
- Some organizations prefer to use regular mail

Findings

- Too much personal information required on website
- Website browser issues
- Recruiting at State Fairs and Master Gardening meetings less efficient in terms of numbers, and response rate inferior to direct mailing
- People who heard about the project contacted APHIS for more information and an interest in becoming involved

Problems Caused by Late Start

- Organizations already committed to other projects
- More time needed for APHIS to develop relationships with cooperating organizations
- Organizations wanted to communicate with members via newsletters
- Participating schools were on summer break
- Volunteer organizations needed prep time to communicate with members

Next Steps

- Utilize both email and regular mail
- Start early in establishing partnerships with volunteer organizations
- Modify website to make certain fields requesting personal information optional
- Develop incentives to enhance participation
- Improve survey aids
- Combine Outreach efforts (Forest Pest Outreach & Survey Program)
- Link on APHIS Website

Citizen Volunteer Pest Survey

