

A new tree pest is causing concern in the northeastern states. It's a borer called the Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*). This rather dramatic looking beetle seems to attack just about any hardwood. There is potential for a lot of damage, both for tree survival and for tree strength. The main area of concern in the United States is the northeast and midwest.

The Asian longhorned beetle, native to Japan, China and North Korea, most likely traveled to this country burrowed in raw wood used in shipping and packing materials.

The beetle is quite distinctive in appearance with black and white striped antennae 1.5- to 4-in. long and a 1- to 1.5-in. bullet-shaped body, shining coal black with scattered white spots. Don't confuse this beetle with the white-spotted sawyer, which also has long antennae but is a dull

bronzy-black without the shininess, the distinct scattered white spots or striped antennae.

In China, this pest seems to prefer stressed trees. Some of the signs of an attack are heavy sap flow from wounds and large sawdust accumulation at tree bases or where

branches meet the main trunk. Exit holes that are 3/8 in. or larger in the bark are obvious and can be scattered anywhere on the trunk, branches and exposed roots. Yellowing leaves and leaf drop are other indicators that the pest is present.

The boring occurs not only under the bark but also into the sapwood and heartwood of the tree or branches. The young larvae bore into the inner bark, feed for awhile and bore into the tree's heartwood to pupate. The adult beetle then chews its way out, thus leaving the hole.

The best time to spot the adult beetles is from May to October. The beetles normally stay close to their host trees, although the adults can fly up to 3,000 feet. Humans provide the easiest modes of transportation for the beetles; they can hitch a ride on vehicles moving through infested areas or be

spread in infected firewood or tree litter.

There is no efficient biological or effective chemical control of the beetle at this time. The only proven method is to cut and burn all infested trees. When the temperatures drop below 60°F, the trees can be cut to the ground and destroyed. Cooler weather also reduces the possibility of the adults flying to other areas.

The beetle seems to prefer the softer hardwood trees that are easier to bore into. Some species of trees that have been attacked include: black locust, pear, boxelder, plum, Chinese elm, silver maple, corkscrew willow, sugar maple, horsechestnut, sycamore maple, hybrid poplar, weeping willow, Lombardy poplar, white mulberry and Norway maple.

Although the Asian longhorned beetle prefers the softer hardwood trees, it may attack others. And in China, where poplars are grown commercially in plantations, sugar maple is used as a trap tree. The maples appear to be a preferred host and attract the beetles.

We don't need to be filled with horror and fear about this borer but be aware of this pest and its significance. If you see something really unusual get a sample and have it identified.

Here are a couple of websites for those of you who want to see more: http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/pa_ceram/ceramb.htm; <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/Asianbeetle.html>; <http://freedom.cce.cornell.edu/clinton/ag/forestry/alhb.html>; <http://everest.ento.vt.edu/Facilities/OnCampus/IDLab/NewPests/ALB/ALB.html>; <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/metro/chicago/article/0,1051,ART-17157,00.html>

If you think you have found this beetle, call your Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) State plant health director at the number listed below: CT 203/269-4277; DE 302/677-4093; IL 708/299-0024; IN 317/654-7792; ME 207/945-0479; MD 410/224-3452; MI 313/942-9005; MN 612/334-4194; NH 603/666-7445; NJ 609/259-8649; NY 518/438-3896; OH 216/552-4869; PA 717/782-3419; RI 401/828-9025; VT 802/828-4490; VA 804/771-2042; WV 304/372-8590; WI 608/264-5096. **LM**

Keep your eyes peeled



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