

Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description: The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) is a non-native pest that poses an enormous threat to urban and rural forests. It entered the United States in solid wood packing material from China. ALB kills trees, primarily maples, elms, and willows. The beetle was found infesting trees in New York City in 1996, Chicago in 1998 and Jersey City, New Jersey in 2002. In September 2003 a large ALB infestation was found near Toronto, Canada. The goal is to eradicate ALB from the United States by finding and destroying all infested trees.

Key Issues:

- Eradicating ALB may cost more than \$300 million and take beyond 2009 to complete, however the progress to date is encouraging.
- Although more than 7,700 infested trees have been removed since ALB was first discovered in the U.S., fewer infested trees were found in 2003 than in previous years: 190 in NY; 2 in Chicago; and none in Jersey City.
- Eradication of ALB in the Summit and Addison quarantine areas outside of Chicago is near.
- Tree and soil injection treatments using the insecticide Imidacloprid is a key tactic in slowing or eliminating the further spread of ALB in and around the quarantine areas.
- It is critical to continue with ALB early detection activities in other high-risk areas.

Accomplishments:

- Supported Imidacloprid treatments: 92,045 trees (IL); 17,570 trees (NY); 1,060 trees (NJ).
- Provided USDA Forest Service tree climbers to survey for ALB in IL, NJ, and NY.
- Co-located a Forest Service entomologist in the ALB project office in Amityville NY to provide on site assistance to the ALB program.
- Provided support for an urban forester with the NY DEC to coordinate the tree restoration efforts in NY.
- Replanted more than 7,600 trees in the affected areas since.
- Maintained an ALB informational website, www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/alb.
- Promoted early detection of ALB through an information outreach campaign directed at green industry professionals nationwide.

Budget History:

Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication (\$ Thousands)				
	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Total	\$1,702	\$300	\$782*	\$500

*Includes \$482,000 from APHIS for tree restoration in Jersey City, NJ

Future Direction: NA will continue to provide technical support to the ALB program including use of Forest Service personnel for ALB surveys; support and conduct early detection surveys for ALB outside of the known infestations; and provide financial and technical support for assisting communities and homeowners deal with the loss of their trees.

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