

Asian Longhorned Beetle: A Threat to Our Forests



Victoria Lynn Smith

Department of Entomology

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station



Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB):

- An exotic invasive beetle from Asia
- A slow tree-killer
- A serious Pest of Regulatory Concern



ALB: what it looks like

- Large—1.25 to 1.5 inches—larger than a paper clip
- Shiny—like a bowling ball, patent leather, or a new car
- Black—not sort of black, but deep black
- White markings—stripes on antennae, blotches on back (may have blue feet)







ALB: what it does

- Females dig egg-laying niches in the trunk and limbs
- Larvae tunnel deep into the wood
- Exit holes are large— $3/8$ to $1/2$ inch diameter and deep







Favorite hosts of ALB:

- Maples, birch, poplar, willow, elm, horsechestnut: favored
- Ash, apple, oak, cherry, pear: less favored
- Hickory, dogwood, beech, honey-locust, walnut, lilac: never reported
- Not on conifers



ALB: signs on the tree

- Not many foliar symptoms
- Egg-laying niches
- Exit holes
- Sap oozing from holes
- Sawdust on the trunk and on the ground
- Maturation feeding
- The beetles themselves























August 2008:

- ALB confirmed in Massachusetts
- Original quarantine area delimited at 16 square miles
- Survey and outreach ramped up
- USDA and Worcester city government work together



September 2008:

- Outreach results in many more reports, more finds
- Quarantine area expanded to 33 square miles
- More attention to firewood movement
- More attention to pallet recyclers



October 2008:

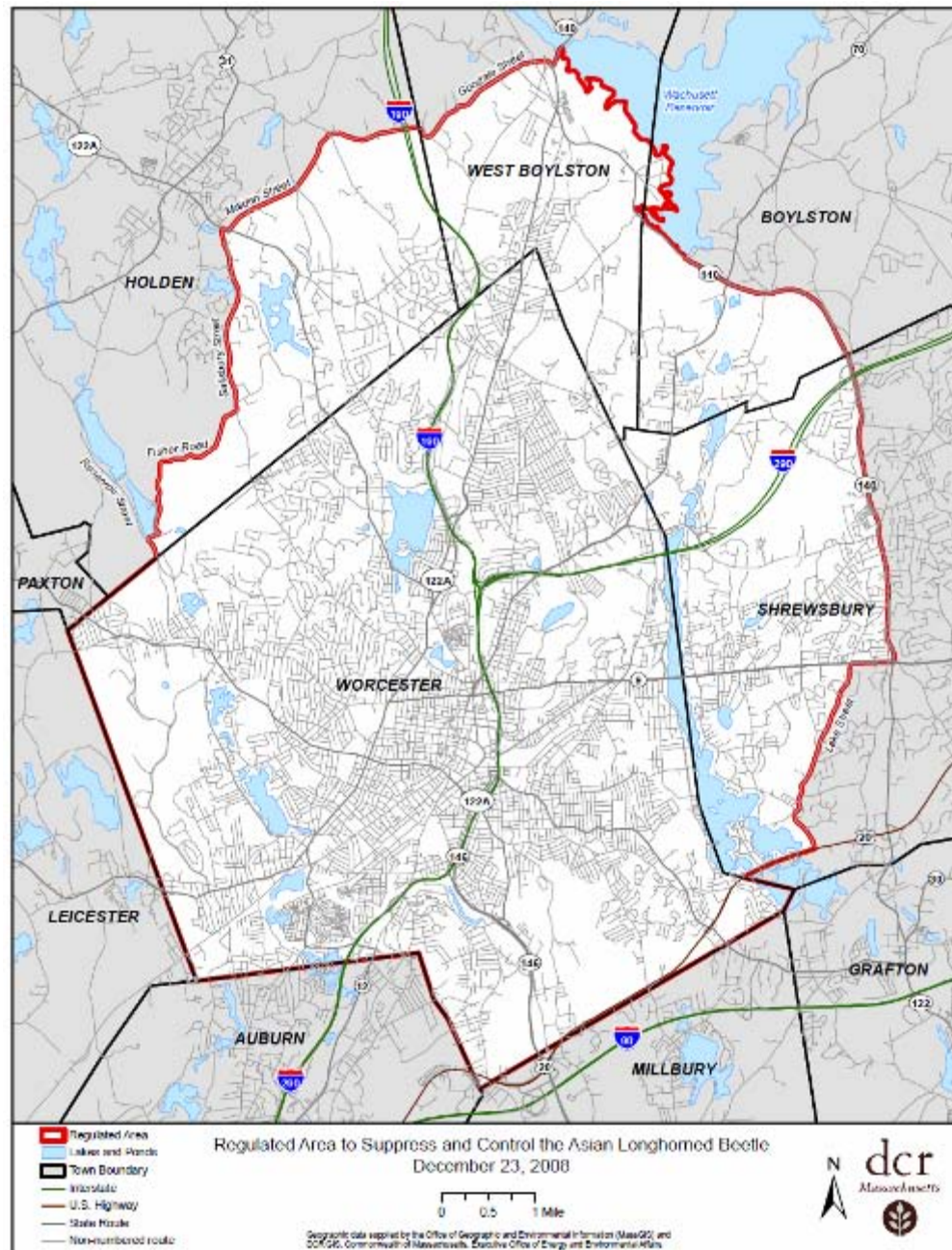
- Quarantine area now nearly 62 square miles
- Larvae found in firewood in RI: wood destroyed by incineration
- Continued vigilance in CT and RI



December 2008:

- 11 December through 12 December-Ice storm damages many trees
- Damage mostly within quarantine area
- Damage made worse by structural weakening of trees
- Many more infested trees found during storm clean up





January 2009:

- Quarantine area stands at 64 square miles
- Ice storm clean-up continues
- Tree removal begins-about 400 trees per week
- Infested trees removed and chipped
- Chips may be used for energy generation















If you **STRONGLY** suspect ALB:

- Don't move anything—the wood or the insect
- Take photographs if possible
- Gather as much information as possible
- Contact the Experiment Station



Experiment Station Contacts:

- Phone CAES at 203-974-8474
- Send a clear digital photograph or an email inquiry to:
CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov





Victoria Lynn Smith
Department of Entomology
123 Huntington Street
P. O. Box 1106
New Haven, CT 06504



Phone: 203.974.8474

Email: Victoria.Smith@ct.gov

CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov

Website: www.ct.gov/caes

