



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

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Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray
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State and Federal Officials Expand Quarantine Zone into Town of Auburn Due to the Discovery of Additional Trees in Worcester County Infested with Asian Longhorned Beetles

Boston – The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) today announced the expansion of the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) regulated area in Worcester County after the discovery of three infested trees near Holy Cross College in Worcester.

Because of this discovery, DCR and APHIS will expand the current central Massachusetts regulated area by four square miles. The federal and state quarantine zone for the area will now be 98 square miles.

An arborist working for a local tree care company reported a suspicious tree to the Massachusetts ALB cooperative eradication program. Further inspections by eradication program staff identified two additional infested trees within the southern edge of the regulated area boundary line in Worcester.

“The expansion of the regulated area is necessary to safeguard communities from the further spread of this invasive insect,” said DCR Commissioner Ed Lambert. “We appreciate the patience and understanding of local communities as we continue to work hard to contain and eliminate ALB infestation within the Worcester County Regulated Area.”

Although the expanded regulated area now extends into Auburn, as of today, no infested trees have been discovered in the town. APHIS ALB Eradication protocols require that the regulated boundary be at least 1.5 miles from an infested tree.

State and federal officials will hold a public meeting to provide information and answer questions on Thursday, May 12 at 6 p.m. Pakachoag Church, 203 Pakachoag Street, Auburn. Subsequent public meetings will be determined at a later date.

The beetle, native to Asia, is a destructive pest of hardwood trees, including maple, horse chestnut, birch, poplar, willow, and elm.

The golden rain tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*) has recently been added to the Federal Order of host genera for the Asian longhorned beetle. This order officially lists the golden rain tree as a regulated species in Massachusetts.

ALB was first discovered in Massachusetts in 2008. The regulated area includes the Worcester, West Boylston and Boylston, as well as portions of Holden, Shrewsbury and Auburn. To view the current

Worcester County quarantine map, please visit:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/alb_maps.shtml

The public can assist the eradication effort by allowing program officials access to their property to evaluate susceptible trees for signs of ALB infestation, and by reporting sightings of the beetle or any signs of infestation.

For more information and to report signs or symptoms of ALB go to www.BeetleBusters.info or <http://massnrc.org/pests/alb>, and for answers about program activities please call the Massachusetts ALB Cooperative Eradication Program at (508) 799-8330 or toll-free at (866) 702-9938.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Edward M. Lambert Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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