

Public Service Announcement **Township of Wyckoff**

For Immediate Release

For further information contact
Shade Tree Commission
201-891-7000, ext. 104

WYCKOFF SHADE TREE COMMISSION ASKS RESIDENTS TO BE AWARE

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) has been discovered attacking trees in the states of New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, Illinois and Massachusetts. The Asian Longhorned beetle has been intercepted at US ports and has been found in warehouses throughout the United States.

This beetle is a serious pest; killing hardwood trees and roadside plantings in China. Adult beetles are $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, with a jet black body and mottled white spots on the back. The long antennae are $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the body length with distinctive black and white bands on each segment. Beetle larvae bores deep into the main tree stem and branches of hardwood trees, (maple, elm, willow, birch horsechestnut and poplar) where it feeds on nutrients. Tunneling by beetle larvae girdles the tree stems and branches. Repeated attacks lead to dieback of the tree crown and eventually kill the tree.

Currently the only effective means to eliminate the Asian Longhorned beetle is to remove infested trees and destroy the trees by chipping or burning. To prevent further spread, quarantines are established to avoid transporting infested trees and branches from the area. Because trees are so vital to our suburban landscape, preserving air quality and providing shade and cooling in the summer, it is critical to detect signs of infestation.

How can residents help stop the spread of these insects and protect our forests and trees?

- Leave firewood at home; do not transport to campgrounds or parks.
- Use firewood from local sources.
- If you have moved firewood, burn all of it before leaving your campsite.
- Do not bring firewood home from out of state.

For more information about Asian Longhorned beetles in the United States, visit these US Department of Agriculture Web sites:

www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/alb/,

www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/index.shtml.