

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources



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Check Alaska trees for Asian longhorned beetles this August

(Palmer, AK) – August is National Tree Check Month. This is the best time of year for Alaskans to check their trees for the invasive Asian longhorned beetle and help prevent infestation of our hardwood trees.

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) is a destructive forest pest that attacks a variety of hardwoods, including maple, birch, willow, cottonwood, and quaking aspen. It has not yet been detected in Alaska, but it was discovered in North America in 1996, in New York. Most likely it arrived as larvae in wood packaging material from Asia. It has since spread to three other U.S. states and one Canadian province. The beetle is spreading by a variety of methods, including the movement of infested firewood between states.

Alaska is home to 129 million forested acres which the Department of Natural Resources would like to keep free of ALB. During August, the department's Division of Agriculture and Division of Forestry encourage residents to take 10 minutes to go outside and look at their hardwood trees for the following signs:

- Round exit holes, the size of a dime or smaller, on the tree's trunk or branches.
- Shallow oval or round scars in the bark; this is where adult beetles chewed into the tree to deposit their eggs.
- Frass (sawdust-like material) at the base of the tree or on branches.

Be aware that Alaska is home to a native beetle – the whitespotted sawyer – which looks very similar to ALB. However, the whitespotted sawyer does not attack hardwood trees.

If you suspect ALB in your trees, contact the 1-877-INVASIV hotline.

For more information on ALB and how to tell the differences between ALB and lookalike beetles, go to:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/naspf/sites/default/files/alb-and-host-trees-09-12-2012-print.pdf>

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