

MASSACHUSETTS ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE COOPERATIVE ERADICATION PROGRAM

Massachusetts Environmental Assessment

The United States Department of Agriculture, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, has issued an Environmental Assessment (EA) relative to the preferred eradication of the Asian longhorned beetle in Massachusetts.

The preferred eradication method for Massachusetts includes survey to discover infested trees, the removal of infested trees, and chemical treatment of host trees within a ½ mile. In certain circumstances, it may be found that specific high-risk host trees may also need to be removed in addition to infested trees. The preferred method for Massachusetts is designed to balance preservation of existing resources with eradication.

The “no action” alternative would promote the spread of the Asian longhorned beetle, causing environmental effects such as the loss of trees and forested areas, and damage to maple syrup and lumber industries in Massachusetts.

The goal of the EA is to evaluate the impacts to the human environment. It provides a concise summary and analysis of the scientific research that has led the Massachusetts ALB Cooperative Eradication Program to select the aforementioned method as the proposed course of action. It is based on review, analysis, and evaluation of scientific information available regarding the ALB, protected species in the regulated area, the impact on aquatic species, and the impact on the environment.

The EA is also supported by information and research developed from past monitoring activities undertaken by USDA APHIS in other areas where the ALB is being eradicated. APHIS has prepared four other Environmental Assessments relevant to this one over the years. They were published in 1999, 2000, 2003, and 2007 and are available for review on the APHIS web site.

The public is invited to comment on the Massachusetts Environmental Assessment and the conclusions it draws before the stated preferred method is enacted.

The Massachusetts Environmental Assessment is available for review online at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/index.shtml or at the ALB Offices in MA at 50 Skyline Drive by asking for the document entitled “Asian Longhorned Beetle



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Cooperative Eradication Program in Worcester and Middlesex Counties, MA—
Environmental Assessment, September 2008.”

Comments must be received by November 2, 2008. These comments are reviewed and taken into consideration and may alter the program as a result. Please provide comments to Ms. Carole Johnson, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737 via mail.

