



**For immediate release
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STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS EXPAND ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE REGULATED AREA NEAR WORCESTER

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 regulated area in Worcester County after the discovery of additional trees infested with the beetle in the towns of Boylston and Holden.

The current central Massachusetts regulated area has been expanded by 18 square miles, creating a federal and state quarantine zone for the area that is now 94 square miles.

Inspectors working on the Massachusetts ALB cooperative eradication program found additional infested trees in the town of Boylston and the town of Holden last month, forcing expansion of the regulated area boundary. Eradication program activities include inspection of every host tree within the regulated area to evaluate ALB presence. In Worcester County, ground survey crews and tree climbers are continuing their inspections within the city of Worcester and the towns of Holden, West Boylston, Boylston, and Shrewsbury.

“All those involved in the ALB eradication effort appreciate the patience and understanding of property owners in the Worcester area who are affected by this destructive insect,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “It is unfortunate that the regulated area must be expanded, and we thank everyone for your cooperation.”

“Surveys are continuing in central Massachusetts, and while we will not know the full extent of the Worcester County infestation until the surveys are complete, we do appreciate everyone’s patience with this process,” said Christine Markham, national program director of the APHIS ALB eradication program.

Regulated boundaries are established to help prevent the movement of host material to areas not known to be infested with the pest. APHIS will continue to work with state and local

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partners to survey for ALB and restrict the movement of regulated material to prevent the spread of the insect.

ALB was first discovered in Massachusetts in 2008, and the regulated area includes the city of Worcester, the town of West Boylston and Boylston, as well as portions of the towns of Holden and Shrewsbury. More than 18,000 infested trees have been removed as part of ALB eradication efforts.

To report signs or symptoms of ALB, or for information about program activities, call the Massachusetts ALB cooperative eradication program at 508-799-8330 or toll-free at 866-702-9938. Reports in Massachusetts also can be made through this website: www.beetlebusters.info or www.massnrc.org/pests/alb.

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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 Richard K. Sullivan 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.