

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** The Asian Longhorned beetle is a serious invasive pest of hardwood trees, including maple, birch and willow, which compose a significant percentage of Massachusetts forest, park and street trees; and

**Whereas** These trees are essential to the prosperity of the Commonwealth, as they sustain the maple sugaring, nursery, tourism, and forest product industries; and

**Whereas** The trees of Massachusetts are critical to the health of the Commonwealth, as they provide us with clean air and soil, shelter from sun and wind, and habitat and food for wildlife; and

**Whereas** The discovery of the presence of a major infestation of Asian Longhorned beetles in the city of Worcester in August of 2008 has caused a serious negative impact on that city, and has placed the Commonwealth, as well as the entire Northeastern United States, on alert for this pest; and

**Whereas** The difficulty of detecting this invasive pest highlights the need to encourage every resident in the Commonwealth to be vigilant and learn to recognize and report sightings of Asian Longhorned beetles, in order to prevent further spread of the species,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim August 2009, to be

## ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-seventh day of July, in the year two thousand and nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-third.

By His Excellency

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick". The signature is fluid and cursive.

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Francis Galvin". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts