



# Asian Longhorned Beetles – another Invasive Pest Dilemma

## Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) was recently discovered attacking trees in South Carolina. The infested area encompasses about 20 acres and is believed to have been present for more than seven years.



Initial ALB attacks appear as shallow egg niches excavated on the bark, less than a half inch in diameter. This is where the beetle deposits its eggs. The eggs hatch in about two weeks and the larvae then tunnel through the phloem and into the xylem. They continue to feed there for up to a year, tunneling and feeding, destroying the tree's ability to

conduct nutrients and reducing structural integrity of all the tissue it contacts. Mature beetles leave round holes 1/4 to 3/8 inch in diameter upon exiting the tree in the spring. After emerging, adult beetles feed on small tree branches for two to three days, then mate and begin the egg laying process. Adult beetles remain active only during summer and early fall months before dying at the end of their one-year life cycle. It appears reasonable to expect one generation per year in Georgia. Repeated attacks lead to dieback of the tree crown, branch failure and eventually, tree death.

The beetles' preferred hosts are maple species (*Acer spp.*), including boxelder, Norway, red, silver and sugar maples. Other observed hosts are birches, Ohio buckeye, elm species, horsechestnut, willows, ashes, Platinus species, mimosa, and poplars. It is speculated that the current infestation was brought to South Carolina from Ohio via the transport of firewood by vacationers. Control solutions are currently limited to whole tree removal and chipping or burning of all material more than two inches in diameter. It is believed that eradication of the pest is possible thru aggressive sanitation and constant vigilance. A complete list of host trees in the United States has not been finalized.

### For more information, see:

<https://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=2178>.

<https://bugwoodcloud.org/resource/files/16644.pdf>.

<https://bugwoodcloud.org/resource/files/16646.pdf>.

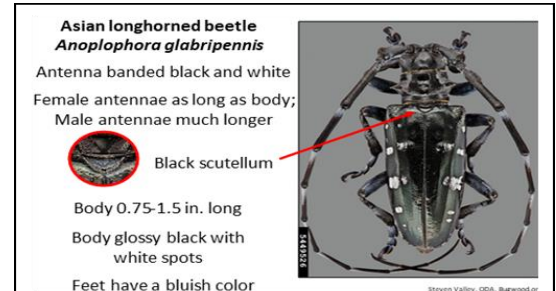
In Georgia, contact the Georgia Forestry Commission at:

<https://gatrees.org/asian-longhorned-beetle-found-in-sc/>

Chip Bates at [Cbates@gfc.state.ga.us](mailto:Cbates@gfc.state.ga.us).

### For a video description by Dr. David Coyle / Clemson U. see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8xevT5syHE>.



Pupation chamber



ALB relative size



Exit holes



Xylem damage



Crown damage