

## Asian Longhorned Beetle found in Ohio

Last Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, officials identified an infestation of Asian longhorned beetle in Clermont County of southwestern Ohio. Like the well-known emerald ash borer, this beetle is an invasive and highly destructive wood-boring beetle introduced from Asia.

The beetle most likely traveled through packaging material in a shipment to the area of infestation. Although inspectors are still surveying the area to determine the size and degree of the infestation, it currently appears to be localized within a 1-mile radius.

This beetle does not spread as quickly as the emerald ash borer and has been successfully contained in past situations. Localized infestations are certainly easier to contain and eradicate, so at this point, there is no reason for Kentuckians to be alarmed about the discovery. It is a good idea, however, especially for residents of northern Kentucky, to be aware of the beetle and its biology.



Photo: Michael Bohne

### History

Asian longhorned beetle is native to Japan, Korea, and eastern China. It was first introduced into the New York and Chicago areas in the late 1990's. Additional infestations have since been found in New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Ontario, Canada.

### Biology

The preferred hosts are maple and poplar, but Asian longhorned beetles also attack elm, horsechestnut, birch, willow, and many others. Females chew through a small area of bark before injecting an egg into the tree. Hatched larvae then bore into the wood, disrupting the tree's vascular system. After pupation, the adults exit the tree through a very large (3/8" to 1/2"), round exit hole. Adults are active from late spring to fall.



Egg-laying site

Photo: Dennis Haugen, USDA Forest Service

### Appearance

Asian longhorned beetles are very large (3/4" to 1 1/2") bluish-black beetles with irregular white spots. Their antennae have black and white bands and are one and a half to two and half times the length of their bodies. A number of other insects are sometimes confused with the Asian longhorned beetle. Follow the link to find Asian longhorned beetle [look-alikes](#).



Exit hole

Photo: Dennis Haugen, USDA Forest Service

### Signs of an Infestation

- Very large (3/8" to 1/2"), round exit holes
- Spots of chewed bark where females lay their eggs
- Frass (sawdust-like)
- Oozing sap
- Dead branches

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