



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Plant Protection
and Quarantine

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An important message from the USDA and Illinois Dept. of Agriculture USDA Volunteer Forest Pest Survey

America's trees are under attack. Help us track down the killer beetles.

The **Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)** has destroyed tens of thousands of hardwood trees. The USDA and IDA are partnering to ask members of the Illinois Arborist Association to participate in the Volunteer ALB Forest Pest Survey. We need your help to determine if this damaging forest pest is in your community.

The ALB most likely arrived in the United States inside solid wood packing material from Asia. Since its discovery, ALB infestations have been reported in four states and there could be other undetected infestations in the country as well.

Be an ace beetle detective. Start searching today.

You can help us stop the spread of the beetle — and the devastation to our forests, parks and neighborhoods — by searching your community for signs of the ALB.

Just follow these simple steps:

1. Review the attached fact sheet to become familiar with the ALB as well as signs of damage. Take the fact sheet for reference when you search.
2. Locate host trees in your search area. The ALB lives in hardwood trees, particularly maple, birch, horsechestnut, willow and elm. Carefully examine each tree for signs of infestation. Take notes on the following:
 - Area searched.
 - Types of trees examined.
 - Descriptions of any beetles or signs of infestation detected. It is also helpful to take pictures of the insects or damage to your trees.
 - If you observe beetles or signs of infestation, contact your USDA/APHIS State Plant Health Director. Go to http://www.aphis.usda.gov/services/report_pest_disease/report_pest_disease.shtml to find your State Plant Health Director.
3. Report both positive and negative sightings online at BeetleDetectives.com. Negative sightings help confirm that the beetle was not found in your area. Make sure you indicate your organization's name on the online reporting form.

Help your organization become top-ranked beetle detectives.

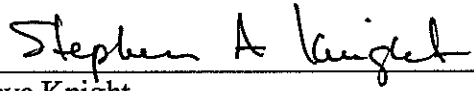
At BeetleDetectives.com, we will rank participating organizations based on the reports their members submit. If you know other people who would like to help protect our trees, forward this email to them and ask them to report their findings as an individual.



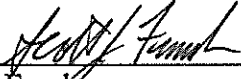
APHIS Protecting American Agriculture

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Thanks in advance for helping protect America's trees!



Steve Knight
Illinois State Plant Health Director
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