

**SOUTH CAROLINA** is the sixth state to detect an Asian longhorned beetle infestation. The beetle has previously been found in New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Ohio.

Source date: June 2020

## WHAT TO DO

**DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD** long distances – it can potentially transport invasive species. Instead, buy it where you'll burn it, buy certified heat-treated firewood – or gather on site where permitted.



Stephen Compton, Clemson University

If you suspect you have an exotic invasive pest or think you have an infestation, please contact the Clemson University Department of Plant Industry or your local Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service office.

For more information on invasive species, visit our website or find us on social media.

**Email for reporting:** [invasives@clemson.edu](mailto:invasives@clemson.edu)

[www.clemson.edu/invasives](http://www.clemson.edu/invasives)

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A partnership to protect your agricultural & natural resources.

## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Department of Plant Industry, a part of Regulatory Services in Clemson University's Public Service and Agriculture, helps prevent the introduction of new plant pests into South Carolina as well as the spread of existing plant pests to non-infested areas.

Plant pest surveys, inspections, quarantines and control and eradication programs are among the tools used to safeguard the state's agricultural and natural resources.

We help horticultural businesses - such as nurseries, greenhouse growers, transplant growers, and turf grass producers - as well as farmers, agricultural industries, and South Carolina consumers in shipping plant material intrastate, interstate, and internationally.

Inspections and certification services help ensure that plants are pest-free, which is essential for movement of plant material to other states and countries.

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANT INDUSTRY

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CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

# Asian Longhorned Beetle



Found  
in SC  
May 2020

Photo: Joe Boggs, OSU Extension

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David Coyle, Clemson University

## SPOT A KILLER

A mature ALB can range from 1 to 1.5” long, with 4” long antennae. In Asia, ALB is called the “starry beetle” because of the irregular pattern of white spots on the black beetle’s wing covers. ALB also has black and white bands on the antennae and bluish feet.

## KNOW THE SIGNS

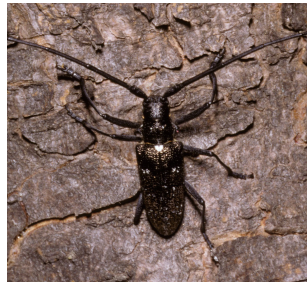
ALB typically destroys trees from the inside-out as larvae feed first on the phloem and then finish their development in the xylem, disrupting transport of water and nutrients in the tree. Mature beetles then leave the trees beginning in March, making exit holes as big as a ballpoint pen. Signs of the beetle’s presence include large amounts of frass or sawdust/wood shavings, sap oozing from the exit holes, and discoloration around egg sites. Adult females also leave shallow depressions at oviposition (egg-laying) sites. Adult beetles do feed on the twigs of infested trees, but this damage is relatively minimal.

## TREE SPECIES AT RISK

The Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*, ALB) arrived in the U.S. via wood packaging material from Asia. ALB has been reported in five states (NY, MA, OH; eradicated in IL and NJ) and primarily feeds on maple (*Acer*), willow (*Salix*), elm (*Ulmus*), and birch (*Betula*). Several additional genera contain host trees categorized as occasional and/or potential hosts, including some exotic ornamental species.

## NATIVE LOOK-A-LIKES

The whitespotted sawyer (left) and the cottonwood borer (right) have diagnostic spots that can distinguish them from ALB. The cottonwood borer and whitespotted sawyer may be mistaken for ALB due to their size and/or coloration.



(L) William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org  
(R) Jim Baker, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org

ALB infestations across the country could spell huge economic losses for the nursery and forest industries. Municipalities and homeowners with infested trees may incur large tree treatment or removal costs, as many hosts for ALB are commonly found in urban and suburban areas.

ALB can be transported to new areas through the movement of firewood, hurricane debris and other infested tree debris, or solid wood packaging material like pallets or large timbers.



David Coyle, Clemson University

## CHECK YOUR TREES

ALB infestations have already killed thousands of trees in 5 states and threaten trees in every state. Once a beetle infests a tree, there is no cure. Our best line of defense against this devastating pest is South Carolinians taking action and checking trees in their landscape for signs and symptoms of ALB.

Check host species for symptoms of decline such as crown and branch dieback, defoliation, and shoots developing in abnormal places like the trunk.

If you have a declining tree, look closer for large exit holes, oviposition sites and frass on the lower branches and ground around the tree. Signs of ALB are visible and can be found year-round.