



## MA ALB Cooperative Eradication Program

50 Skyline Drive  
Worcester, MA

Tel: 508-799-8330 Fax: 508-799-8321



Dear Business Owner:

On August 6, 2008, officials from the United States Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of the Asian longhorned beetle *Anoplophora glabripennis* (ALB) in Worcester. This invasive insect is a destructive and costly threat to our hardwood trees. It is known to infest tree species such as maple (including Norway, sugar, silver, red, and others), horse chestnut, birch, poplar, willow, elm, and ash (also known as "host trees"). The ALB will kill infested trees and, if left unchecked, can continue to spread to adjacent host trees with devastating effects to New England.

Currently a 62 square mile area comprised of the entire City of Worcester and portions of the surrounding towns of Holden, West Boylston, Boylston, and Shrewsbury is now under strict regulation to contain this infestation by order of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the actions of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. This order is in place to prevent movement or transport of ALB regulated materials from any infested and/or host tree from this regulated area to areas outside of this zone, unless chipped to less than one inch in two dimensions.

ALB regulated materials include: live beetles, their eggs and larva, firewood (all hardwood species), green lumber, plant material living, dead, cut, or fallen (inclusive of nursery stock), logs, stumps, roots, branches, twigs or other woody material, and debris of one-half inch or more in diameter from any of the following genera: *Acer* (maple), *Aesculus* (horse chestnut), *Albizia* (mimosa), *Betula* (birch), *Celtis* (hackberry), *Fraxinus* (ash), *Platanus* (sycamore), *Populus* (poplar), *Salix* (willow), *Sorbus* (mountain ash), and *Ulmus* (elm).

**Due to the nature of your business, we request your full cooperation and compliance to prevent the further spread of infestation. All businesses (e.g., landscaping, construction companies, nurseries, tree removal services, firewood dealers, and others) performing work in the regulated area are required to comply with these regulations.** Companies that do any pruning or removals, or in any way handle wood from trees of the eleven ALB host species within the Regulated Area are required to enter into a compliance agreement with Federal and State authorities. This will require the successful completion of a one-hour workshop with the Massachusetts ALB Cooperative Eradication Program. **We strongly suggest that all employees attend. Please be advised that officers are conducting surveillance within the regulated area to enforce the quarantine, and fines can result if businesses are not in compliance with Federal and State regulations.**

For information about training dates and times, and to register go to [www.ci.worcester.ma.us](http://www.ci.worcester.ma.us) and complete the registration form (**titled Contractor Compliance Training and Certification Program**) or call the ALB Program Office at 508-799-8330 to sign-up. You will receive comprehensive training on the compliance program, including how to properly dispose of host material through chipping to USDA specification, the proper removal and/or transport of wood that cannot be chipped to USDA specification, hours of operations and access procedures at approved City-established disposal sites, an understanding of the regulations and/or protocols, and reporting procedures for detection of the infestation.

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Worcester, MA 01605  
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