



What to do.

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.



Who we are. 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, 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 foreign countries.

Department of Plant Industry
511 Westinghouse Rd.
Pendleton SC 29670

Phone: 864-646-2140

www.clemson.edu/invasives

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Asian Longhorned Beetle



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Tree species at risk.

Anoplophora glabripennis, Asian longhorned beetle, arrived in the United States via wood shipping crates used to transport goods from Asia. ALB has been reported in five states (NY, MA, OH; irradiated in IL and NJ), primarily feeding on maple (*Acer*), horsechestnut and buckeye (*Aesculus*), willow (*Salix*), elm (*Ulmus*), birch (*Betula*) and sycamore (*Platanus*). Lists of genera categorized as occasional and/or potential hosts run even longer, including some exotic ornamentals.

ALB infestations across the country could spell huge economic losses for the nursery and forest industries. Northeastern states like Vermont are especially concerned about ALB devastating the maple syrup industry.



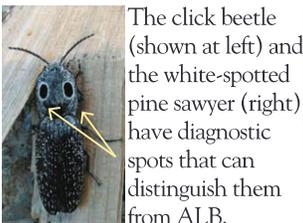
A long list of viable hosts also provides numerous pathways for a beetle to spread. ALB can be transported to new regions and states through the movement of firewood and other infested tree debris.

Spot a killer.



A mature ALB can range from 1 to 1.5 inches long, with 4 inch 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.

Native look-a-likes.



The click beetle (shown at left) and the white-spotted pine sawyer (right) have diagnostic spots that can distinguish them from ALB.



Know the signs.

ALB typically destroys trees from the inside-out as larvae feed on the xylem and phloem, tissues that transport water and nutrients throughout the living tree. Mature beetles then leave the trees late May through October, making exit holes as big as a ballpoint pen.



Symptoms of the beetle’s presence include larval galleries under the bark, large amounts of frass or sawdust and sap oozing from the exit holes. Adult females also leave shallow depressions at oviposition (egg-laying) sites. Adult beetles do feed on the leaves of infested trees, but this damage is relatively minimal.



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, frass on the lower branches and ground around the tree, and large larval galleries carved below the bark.

August is national tree check month because adult beetles are most active and easily spotted in summer and early fall. However, signs of ALB are visible and can be found year-round.

