



Ohio Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) Cooperative Eradication Program MEDIA UPDATE

April 19, 2012

**Media Inquires Call:
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KEY MESSAGES: Residents in the ALB regulated areas established within Clermont County cannot move firewood or wood debris outside of the regulated area and outside of East Fork State Park. Residents are also discouraged from moving firewood and wood debris inside the regulated area. For answers to questions about regulated materials and permits, or to report wood movement or suspected ALB infested trees, residents are asked to call the program office at 513-381-7180. Residents can also report suspected ALB infestations online at www.BeetleBusters.info.

Clermont County

The USDA/Ohio Department of Agriculture Marshalling Yard located at 2896 State Route 232 Bethel, Ohio is resuming its pre-storm operating hours, accepting woody debris daily Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. The Marshalling Yard will only accept woody debris from trees. Construction debris or mixed waste will not be accepted. Chips are available for residents of Tate Township for personal use. The first Saturday of every month, chips are available without an appointment from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., and the removal contractor will be available to load personal trucks during this time. Pick-up on other Saturdays will be by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please call 513-381-7180. The vehicle used for transporting chips should be no larger than a light duty truck, no mechanized equipment. Residents will need proof of residency for Tate Township, such as a driver's license, state ID card, voter registration card or utility bill. Residents must check-in at the tower with officials upon arrival.

Infested tree removals in Clermont County began on November 14, 2011. During removal operations, program personnel are on-site to oversee the contractors at all times. There is no cost to homeowners for removal of infested trees, including filling of stump holes and grass reseeding. Tree removals will not take place without prior notification of the property owner. The removal contractor, Young's General Contracting Inc., is working directly with property owners to address any concerns or special circumstances. Property owners are asked to communicate any concerns with the contractor in advance of tree removal work being conducted by calling (573) 785-1501. Ground and tree-climbing survey crews continue to conduct delimiting surveys, inspecting all host trees throughout the regulated areas in Clermont County. Staff survey for the presence of ALB by examining individual host trees for signs of beetle damage. The following numbers pertain to the infested tree removals and surveys currently being conducted:

6,744	Number of ALB infested trees removed as of 4/14/12 (since removals starting on 11/14/11)
7,790	Number of ALB infested trees confirmed as of 4/14/12 (since detection on 6/17/11)
104,147	Number of trees surveyed as of 4/14/12 (since surveys began on 7/1/11)
56	Square-miles under regulation; see "Regulated Area" map: http://www.agri.ohio.gov/TopNews/asianbeetle/docs/ALB_quarantine_map.pdf

In the event of inclement weather, surveys and infested tree removals may be delayed or cancelled.

The quarantine restricts the movement of hardwood logs, firewood, stumps, roots and branches out of the regulated area and also restricts the sale of nursery stock, green lumber, and logs of the following trees: maples, horse chestnut, buckeye, mimosa, birch, hackberry, ash, golden raintree, katsura, sycamore, poplar, willow, mountain ash, and elms. Program staff continue to monitor regulated areas, respond to service calls and conduct training sessions for compliance agreements.

INFORMATION MEETINGS: There are no ALB program public meetings planned for the upcoming week.

BACKGROUND: The Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*, ALB) is an invasive pest from Asia that came to the United States concealed in solid wood packing material; pallets, crates and dunnage, used to transport goods from overseas. ALB was first detected in the United States in 1996 in Brooklyn, NY. Ohio is the fifth state to detect the destructive ALB.

The Ohio ALB Cooperative Eradication Program is comprised of USDA APHIS, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio State University Extension, USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Forest Service.