

Patricia D. Hastings

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ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE UPDATE for OCTOBER 29, 2004 courtesy of Carl P. Schulze, Director, Division of Plant Industry, New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Anyone suspecting the presence of this beetle should contact the NJDA at 1-866-BEETLE-1 or (609) 292-5440.

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE UPDATE

OCTOBER 29, 2004

A public forum on the Asian longhorned beetle held Tuesday, October 26, at the Rahway Public Library drew city officials, landscapers and residents. During the meeting, moderated by Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus, numerous questions were asked and answered about the upcoming removal of trees from the core of the infestation area.

The 406 trees known to be infested to date, most of which are in Carteret and Woodbridge, will be the first to come down, with tree-cutting tentatively scheduled to begin in late November. Efforts are ongoing to develop a disposal method that all stakeholders will be comfortable with. That includes pursuing the burning of wood chips coming from the trees. Plans to replace the trees with varieties the beetle will not attack are being formulated.

The October 26 meeting was covered by Home News-Tribune reporter Michelle Maskaly, whose story ran the next day. New Jersey Network Science Reporter Patrick Regan met with the ALB team prior to the meeting near the site of the heaviest infestation for interviews that are slated to be part of his report on the Friday, October 29, newscast.

The first tree infested with Asian longhorned beetle in the City of Rahway was discovered on Tuesday, October 5. Found in an area along the city's border with Carteret Borough, the tree became the 406th determined to be infested with the beetle in the quarantine zone that includes Woodbridge, Carteret, Rahway and Linden.

Field surveys continued this week in the four municipalities to determine the extent of the infestation. More than 21,000 trees have been inspected to date. The main core of the infestation, with trees showing exit holes and egg sites, remains about 1 square mile in size. The entire quarantine zone is 10.5 square miles. Twenty-four USFS climbers conducting aerial inspections and about 15 program staff conducting ground surveys on smaller trees continue to work delimiting surveys

The ALB fall media campaign "Don't Move Firewood" continues with ads running in 47 publications in New Jersey, New York and Illinois, with an advertising circulation that could potentially reach more than 10 million people.

On October 18, Barry Emens, NJ ALB Program Director, provided personnel from the State of Conn. Markets and Inspection and Experiment Station in New Haven, with a tour of the ALB Infestation in Carteret.

On October 20, NJ Forestry ALB Public Outreach Coordinator Rosa Yoo, gave an ALB presentation at the NJ State Forest Fire Service Regional Meeting in Chatsworth, NJ. Her talk included ALB identification, biology/lifecycle of the ALB, eradication, reforestation and inspection/survey efforts being conducted in the New Jersey ALB infestation areas.

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