

MA ALB Cooperative Eradication Program

151 West Boylston Drive
Worcester, MA 01606
Tel: 508-852-8110 Fax: 508-852-8041



Dear TOWN OF MILLIS,

Regarding: VILLAGE ST, MILLIS

You are receiving this notification because officials from the Massachusetts ALB Cooperative Eradication Program will be working in your neighborhood to inspect trees susceptible to Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB). The program respectfully requests the cooperation and support of residents and commercial businesses by allowing officials to access properties to complete this necessary work. The purpose of these inspections is to confirm that ALB has not spread beyond the known area of infestation.

If you have questions or concerns please call the ALB Hotline at 866-702-9938. For more information about the ALB, please visit www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com

In August 2008 an infestation of ALB was identified in Worcester County. ALB is a destructive pest that attacks healthy hardwood trees including maple, birch, poplar, willow, and elm. An infestation of this non-native, invasive species can cause significant economic and environmental damage, impacting homeowners as well as many areas of industry. Upon confirmation in 2008 the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) joined with the United States Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) and the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources (MDAR) in a cooperative program to eradicate ALB from the commonwealth. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 132, sections 8, 11, and 12 and M.G.L. 132A section 1F the DCR issued a Quarantine Order to suppress and control nuisance conditions and regulated articles.

This order restricts the movement of firewood and all wood from regulated host trees within the affected area and authorizes the DCR and its duly authorized agents to use "all lawful means of suppressing, controlling, and eradicating ALB, including affixing signs to and removing or causing to be removed, and the destruction thereof, all Regulated Articles within the affected area that are, may be or have the potential to be infested or infected by ALB." Furthermore, the DCR and its duly authorized agents are authorized to enter upon any land within and outside the affected area to implement and conduct activities under this order.

Based on this authority, officials from the ALB Cooperative Eradication Program conduct visual survey of trees on public and private property to detect infestation. The standard protocol is to seek permission from the property owner. If the owner is not home at the time of inspection the uniformed state and Federal officials will enter onto a property so long as there is access. Surveys of all host trees are currently on going within the Regulated Area, which includes 110 square miles in Worcester, West Boylston, Boylston, Shrewsbury, and portions of Holden and Auburn.

If infested trees are detected during the course of the inspections, the DCR will begin the process of removing those trees. The DCR will work with the property owner to obtain consent for tree removal. Tree removal is the only guaranteed control method for ALB infestations, is required by law, and shall occur at no cost to the property owner.

Linda C. Hubley
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RECEIVED
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BOARD OF HEALTH MILLIS