



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

February 9, 2012

**Media Inquires Call:
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The Ohio ALB Cooperative Eradication Program will begin removals of infested trees only from all remaining properties in regulated areas within Clermont County, Ohio for the eradication of Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). Infested tree removals beyond the initial removal area (the phase 1 area) will begin the week of Feb. 27, weather permitting.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will issue a total of 109 legal notice letters via U.S. mail to impacted landowners prior to infested tree removal operations taking place on their properties. Program officials will be on location daily with each contractor removal crew. The program will continue to work with landowners to address any removal concerns. Property owners are asked to communicate any concerns with Young's General Contracting by calling (573) 785-1501 and/or APHIS by calling (513) 381-7180 in advance of tree removal work being conducted on their property.

As of Feb. 4, the Ohio ALB Cooperative Eradication Program has removed 2,721 infested trees from the regulated area in Clermont County. Beginning the week of Feb. 27, removal crews will proceed with operations outside of the initial removal area, in order to remove any known infested trees from the regulated area in Clermont County.

Removed trees are chipped to less than an inch in two dimensions, which allow them to become deregulated. ALB life stages are either eliminated or no longer supported through the chipping process.

Wood chips are available for residents of Tate Township for their personal use. Residents can go to the marshalling yard, located at 2896 State Route 232 in Bethel, to pick up chips. Due to safety concerns while the marshalling yard is in operation during the week, the chips will be made available to residents on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The vehicle for transporting chips should be no larger than a light duty (GVWR) Class 3 truck or equivalent. Residents will need to provide proof of residency for Tate Township in order to receive the chips, such as a driver's license, state identification card, voter registration card or utility bill. Residents must check-in at the tower with program officials upon arrival.

Surveys by ground and aerial survey staff continue in and around the regulated areas within Clermont County to identify infested trees. Surveying trees for signs of ALB is a continual process and takes place year round. Surveys are also being conducted on properties where infested trees are being removed while the ALB program staff is marking infested trees in advance of removal operations. As survey crews continue to identify infested trees on new properties, impacted landowners will receive legal notice for infested tree removal.

As of Feb. 4, 6,417 infested trees have been identified within Tate Township, and 27 infested trees in Monroe Township. An area-wide map reflecting current program information, including the regulated area, the initial removal area, infested trees identified to date, and survey progression plans can be found online at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/alb_maps.shtml.

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.