



Asian Longhorned Beetle in Worcester UPDATE: February 25, 2009

In a recent phone conversation with Ken Gooch (MDCR and the Deputy Asian Longhorned Beetle Incidence Commander for Worcester) the following information was provided to Bob Childs, UMass Extension.

- ✿ As of this date (Feb. 25, 2009) **15,400 trees have been removed from the northern section of Worcester since January 5, 2009**, when the tree removal process began.
- ✿ Approximately 40% of the removed trees, thus far, have been in the 2" to 5" DBH category, meaning that 7,000 – 8,000 of the removed trees were larger.
- ✿ It is estimated that the cutting will continue for another two weeks (mid-March) in the residential areas of northern Worcester.
- ✿ Once the residential areas are finished, the tree removal process will move to the Worcester Land Trust forested area to begin tree removal there.
- ✿ Currently, more than 500 trees in the forested Land Trust area have been identified as being infested with ALB.
- ✿ Infested trees, as well as, un-infested but susceptible tree species, are slated to be removed from the forested Land Trust area.
- ✿ One of the primary tree companies involved in tree removal in Worcester has been grinding stumps of removed trees since the cutting began in January. Another primary tree company will start stump grinding by early March.
- ✿ **In the residential areas of northern Worcester where cutting is continuing, but where the survey work has not yet been done, the cutting crews have found that approximately 70 -80% of these un-surveyed properties have ALB infested trees.**
- ✿ It is expected that **20,000 to 22,000 trees will be removed from Worcester in 2009**, which meets the original estimates.
- ✿ **Survey work** ceased in early January when cutting began but is **expected to resume within the next 2 weeks (mid-March)**.
- ✿ **Replanting:** Thus far, the **USDA has provided \$500,000** for this endeavor in Worcester. A ceremonial re-planting is planned for Arbor Day consisting of about 100 – 150 trees in Worcester. The rest of the re-planting for 2009 will occur in the fall of 2009.
- ✿ Ice storm-damaged trees continue to be collected and processed.