

HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Nassau County

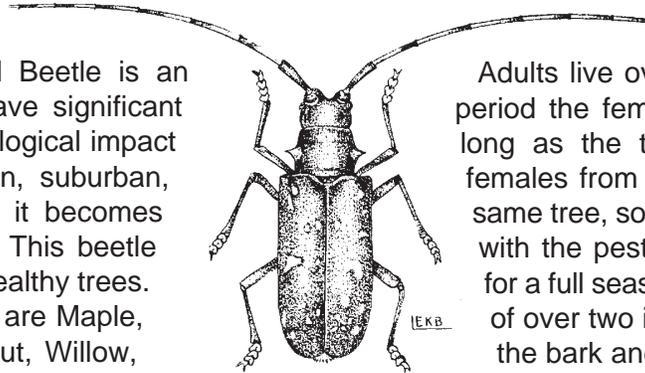


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The Asian Long Horned Beetle

The Asian Long Horned Beetle is an exotic pest that could have significant economic, social and ecological impact on North American urban, suburban, rural and forest areas if it becomes permanently established. This beetle is able to attack and kill healthy trees. Host trees in this country are Maple, Box Elder, Horsechestnut, Willow, Elm, Birch, Plane Tree, Sycamore, Mimosa, Hackberry, Ash and Poplar. Less common hosts are Rose-of Sharon, Apple, Crab Apple, Mulberry, Cherry, Plum, Pear, Black Locust, Linden, and Basswood.

Adult beetles are huge and very distinctive looking. In their native lands they are called starry night beetles because the bodies are shiny black with white speckles that look like a night sky. The antennae are very long with alternating black and white segments that look like prison stripes. They have large, well-developed heads. The best time to see adults is from July to October. Adult exit holes are round about $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch in diameter and can be found anywhere on the tree including exposed roots. Egg laying sites are oval to round darkened wounds in the bark. As the larvae tunnel inside the tree there may be large piles of tooth pick like frass that are pushed out and accumulate either in branch crooks or at the base of the tree.



Adults live over 40 days and during this period the females lay 40 –50 eggs. As long as the tree is not dead, the new females from these eggs will reinfest the same tree, so a single tree may be riddled with the pest. Newly hatched eggs feed for a full season reaching a mature length of over two inches. Larvae pupate near the bark and emerge as an adult that is around $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. Because of their

hidden lifestyle there are no effective pesticides to control these insects.

In order to contain the spread of the beetle, the tree must be cut down and destroyed. Because the tree is eaten from the inside out, the trees are safety hazards with branches and trunks that may look sturdy but actually break off very easily due to tunneling in the infrastructure. The main method of spread is through infested firewood so the law has mandated that all infested trees must be chipped to destroy larvae and eggs, which otherwise could complete their development.

Some recommended replacement trees are:

- Japanese Lilac
- Kentucky Coffee Tree
- Dawn Redwood
- English Oak
- White Oak
- Bur Oak
- Tulip Tree
- Serviceberry
- Ginkgo
- Bald Cypress
- Honeylocust
- Littleleaf Linden

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