



ALB Cooperative Eradication Program

Legislative Update – March 2010



Treatments

The program is continuing to collect releases from residents for the use of control treatments. Approximately 810 treatment releases have been secured thus far, with 19 refusals. Treatments are tentatively scheduled to start the week of April 26. Massachusetts treatment maps can be found online at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/alb_maps.shtml

The factsheet answering questions about treatments can be found online at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/content/printable_version/faq_albcon.pdf

Regulated Area

The program continues to maintain a 74 square mile regulated area, which includes the City of Worcester and the Town of West Boylston as well as portions of the Towns of Shrewsbury, Holden and Boylston.

Surveying

The program is working on delimitating surveys. Ground survey crews continue to survey in the satellite areas of Worcester, Holden and West Boylston in preparation of treatment applications. Climber survey crews continue to survey within Worcester. Seventy-nine new infestations have been found in and near the core area of Worcester. The Massachusetts survey progression plan can be found online at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/alb_maps.shtml

Removals

Residential removals began January 5, 2010. Infested tree removals continue. The most recent removals have taken place in Worcester at Oak Ridge (condominiums behind O'Connors Restaurant in Worcester), on the east side of Indian Lake, west of Gold Star Boulevard, and Rodby Street (woodlot).

Replanting

Monday, April 26 through Saturday, May 1, representatives from USDA APHIS, DCR, City of Worcester and the Worcester Tree Initiative will conduct a series of activities to promote tree replanting and a healthy environment. The activities will include the celebration of the City of Worcester as a "Tree City USA" community, and will include tree plantings, demonstrations and education at various local schools, as well as tree plantings taking place at Quinsigamond Community College. Over 100 trees are expected to be planting within the week.

Job Opportunities

USDA APHIS is looking to fill 40 survey technician positions, 2 officer positions and 1 data entry position. DCR will be filling 18 climber positions and 17 forester positions. Some of the USDA APHIS positions were posted in mid-March, and can be found online at: www.usajobs.gov

The DCR positions will be posted online at: <https://jobs.hrd.state.ma.us/recruit/public/3111/index>

Program by the Numbers

Program launched

August 5, 2008

Regulated Zone, 1st Order

17 square miles
August 8, 2008

Regulated Zone, 7th Amended Order

74 square miles
September 26, 2009

Contractor Compliance Agreements

826 total

Completed Tree Surveys

343,447 surveys
102,469 in 2010
203,859 in 2009
37,199 in 2008

Infested Trees Identified

17,183 total
11,723 in 2009

17,066 in Worcester
32 in Holden
75 in West Boylston
10 in Boylston

Removals

First removal January 5, 2009
15,940 infested trees removed
10,250 high-risk trees removed

Replanting

548 trees planted by ALB program
400 trees planted by Worcester

Staff

41 APHIS, USDA staff members
11 DCR staff members