



Early Detection: Asian Longhorned Beetle Traps



The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) received a grant from the U.S. Forest Service to utilize traps as a strategic tool to eradicate the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) from Worcester County. The DCR, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), will establish and monitor trap lines within and around the quarantine area from June through September. In preceding years, these pheromone traps have proven effective in identifying previously unknown infested areas.

The traps will use a lure cocktail that combines ALB pheromones with plant volatiles of host trees. This cocktail combination has been proven to be effective at attracting ALB. A pheromone is a chemical that is secreted by animals and insects which affects the psychology and behavior of the opposite sex. Plant volatiles are volatile organic chemicals (VOC) released by plants. If ALB is present in the area, it will be lured into these traps when the pheromone and the plant volatiles are received by the beetles.



Photo of ALB trap located in the lower canopy



Collection jar at the base of the trap reveals a captured ALB

This year 1000 traps will be strategically placed in the lower canopy of selected trees. Beetles that are lured into the traps will be captured in a collection jar located at the base of the trap. Traps will be checked biweekly by program personnel.

Early detection of Asian Longhorned Beetle infestations is a critical tool for the eradication of ALB and the preservation of non-infested host trees. The utilization of trap lines combined with field survey is effective in identifying the boundaries of infestation. If you have any questions, or concerns, please contact program officials at (866) 702-9938.