

## Watch Out for the Exotic Asian Longhorned Beetle

USDA Forest Service



### Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Motschulsky)

This Asian beetle was discovered in areas of New York in 1996. Populations of ALB have since been found in New Jersey and Toronto, Ont. A population in Chicago, discovered in 1998, appears to be nearly eradicated. Major efforts are continuing to eradicate all other known populations in North America. Maple trees, including box elder, are often preferred hosts, but ALB can also infest horsechestnut, elms, birches, willows and poplars. Small larvae feed in the outer sapwood; larger larvae chew out tunnels into the heartwood of the tree. Branches are usually attacked first, but eventually the entire trunk can be colonized. Adult beetles are shiny black with white spots and have alternating white and black bands on the long antennae. The large beetles, roughly 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches long, emerge through round, dime-sized exit holes in the bark of trees. Adults can be present from May through October.

## Don't be fooled by these beetles....



*Monochamus scutellatus* (Say)

### White-spotted pine sawyer

This is a common native beetle that feeds on many conifer (evergreen) trees including pines, firs and spruce. Sawyer beetles

colonize only trees that are dying or were recently cut or killed. Larvae feed in the phloem and outer sapwood at first, then excavate tunnels into the wood. Adults emerge through round holes in the bark. They are smaller than ALB, usually about 3/4 inch long. Males are dark with a single white spot on the dorsal (back) side, while female beetles are a mottled brown and white. Adults can be present from June through September.

Mike Higgins



*Plectrodera scalator* (Fabricius)

### Cottonwood borer,

Native to the United States, the cottonwood borer prefers eastern cottonwood but can also colonize poplars and willows. Larvae feed in the large roots and the root collar area of live trees. Unlike ALB, the cottonwood borer does

not leave visible emergence holes on the trunk or branches because it pupates in roots below the ground, and adults emerge from the roots. Adults are large, black and white beetles and roughly 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches long. They are present from late May through mid-August.

Mike Higgins



The line-up includes (left to right) a male white-spotted pine sawyer, a cottonwood borer, a female Asian longhorned beetle, a male Asian longhorned beetle and a female white-spotted pine sawyer.

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Exit holes left by emerging Asian longhorned beetles.

Mike Higgins



A male white-spotted pine sawyer beetle.