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August 2025 Firewood & Forest Pests Newsletter




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Photo of a handsome man and his daughter checking the trees in their neighborhood for signs of insect damage. Photo credit: Laurel Downs **Did you know? New invasive insect detections are often credited to the reports of concerned citizens!**



August is Tree Check Month!

It's August- which means it's Tree Check Month! The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) asks the public to look for and report signs of the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB). ALB is particularly active this time of year, so everyone is encouraged to take 10 minutes to check their trees for signs of these and other invasive insects and diseases. Early detection goes a long way in successfully managing forest pests!

[USDA APHIS Tree Check Month Press Release >>](#)

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Spotted Lanternfly Continues Spread

The notorious hitchhiker pest, spotted lanternfly, has been spreading onward and outwards from its original infestation site in Pennsylvania for years. The latest new state to report them is South Carolina. While the adults and most instar nymphs of this species are hard to miss, the egg masses - which [look like a splotch of mud](#) - can go easily undetected on outdoor items that folks move around. SLF is yet another

[Subscribe](#) [reason NOT to move firewood!](#) [Past Issues](#)[Translate](#)[Invasive spotted lanternfly detected in South Carolina \(Clemson News\) >>](#)

APHIS Eradicates ALB from Holden, MA

After completing a final host tree survey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in partnership with the State of Massachusetts, removed the town of Holden, Massachusetts—a 12.3-square-mile area in Worcester County—from the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) quarantine area. Nearly 100 square miles remain under Federal quarantine in Worcester County.

[Read the press release by APHIS here >>](#)

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Forest Pests In the News

[Hemlock woolly adelgid spreads to Lake Champlain: Understanding the threat](#)
Adirondak Explorer, July 31 2025

[Portland Parks & Recreation prepares for invasive, destructive pest](#)
City of Portland, July 30 2025

[Emerald ash borer reaches southernmost U.S. point, 5 new Texas counties confirmed](#)

[Subscribe](#) [The Gilmer Mirror: July 15 2025](#)
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[How a tree-killing beetle chose wrong human to fly into, revealing presence in B.C.](#)
Vancouver Sun; July 13 2025

[Officials take bold action in effort to slow spread of dangerous beetle: 'We'll never stop the insect'](#)
The Cool Down, July 12 2025

[Expansion of the emerald ash borer regulated areas in British Columbia](#)
CFIA; July 7 2025

[WA Government urged to take action to prevent spread of shot hole borer in south west](#)
WAMN News, July 6 2025

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This newsletter is produced by staff of The Nature Conservancy's Forest Pest and Pathogen Program.

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