

## August 2026 Firewood & Forest Pests Newsletter



*Photo of an adult Asian longhorned beetle (Anopophora glabripennis); photo credit: Gillian Allard, FAO of United Nations, Bugwood.org*



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## August is Tree Check Month!

The United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) organizes [Tree Check Month for August](#) each year. It is a time where everyday folks are encouraged to protect America's trees by taking some time to look at the trees in our backyards and neighborhoods and report signs of tree damage from [Asian longhorned beetle](#) (ALB) or any other suspected invasive species. This time of year is when adult ALBs are usually active and emerging. USDA APHIS suggests looking for the following signs:

- Round holes in the trunk or branches, about the size of a pencil ([or even a Sharpie](#) where they grow 'em big in South Carolina)!
- Chewed, oval or round depressions in the bark where the beetle lays eggs
- Sawdust-like material on the ground or in branch crooks
- Unexplained dead or dying branches

USDA APHIS suggests the following ways to help:

- **Check your trees:** spend a few minutes looking at your trees for beetles or

harmful pests.

- **Report anything suspicious:** If you think you've found ALB or tree damaged caused by it, call the ALB hotline at 1-866-702-9938 or report it online through the APHIS ALB web page. Photos and samples (kept frozen) can help experts identify the insect.

Help get the word out for this year's Tree Check Month! See the links below:

[Tree Check Month website by USDA APHIS >>](#)

[More Tree Check Month Resources >>](#)

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## APHIS Reduces ALB Quarantine Area in NY

Speaking of ALB, USDA APHIS has removed portions of Nassau and Suffolk Counties in New York from the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) quarantined area effective July 30, 2026. A total of 7.4 square miles was removed; this includes 0.8 square miles of the Town of Oyster Bay in Nassau County and 2.4 square miles in the north and 0.7 square miles in the south of the Town of Babylon, as well as 3.5 square miles of the Town of Huntington in Suffolk County. The other portions of these counties remain under quarantine. For more details see [this Federal Order](#).

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## PPA 7721 Open Now

USDA APHIS has officially opened the period for submitting Suggestions (“Suggestions” are like a pre-proposal) for Plant Protection Act 7721 PPDMDPP funding. This is the annual funding that currently serves as the primary Don’t Move Firewood budget, as well as lots of inter-related state and local based firewood and forest pest related projects. This year, Suggestions are due by September 21, 2026. You can access more information and the portal [HERE](#). If you are considering applying for funding for FY27, make sure to read the [FY 2027 Implementation Plan](#) as it contains important background information, objectives, and strategies of the six goal areas. Please feel free to reach out to us for insight into forest pest relevant Suggestions focusing on the **5th Goal area: Targeted Outreach and Education**, as that is what we specialize in when we apply each year for support of the the Don’t Move Firewood campaign. We are always happy to work with you in crafting a Suggestion in partnership with Don’t Move Firewood. Happy suggesting, everyone!

[More about the implementation plan >>](#)

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## Firewood Month Webinars

We CANNOT believe that October is only two months away...but here we are. October is Firewood Month and Firewood Month is our jam so we are prepping now! We have THREE amazing webinars already lined up from our very own staff and if YOU want to pitch any ideas for talks during the time of year when thousands across North America are pitching tents and roasting s'mores, please [reach out to us!](#) Registration links are now live for the following webinars:

**Thursday, October 1st, 2026 at 1pm EST**

*Firewood and the Forest Pest Multiverse: the influence of time on perceptions of regulation and detection*

Presentation by Leigh Greenwood, The Nature Conservancy

[>>Register here](#)

**Thursday, October 1st, 2026 at 1pm EST**

*Slowing the spread of Emerald Ash Borer in the Pacific Northwest*

Presentation by Alex Meacham, The Nature Conservancy

[>>Register here](#)

**Thursday, October 1st, 2026 at 1pm EST**

*The Latest and Greatest in the World of Don't Move Firewood*

Presentation by Laurel Downs, Leigh Greenwood, and Alex Meacham, The Nature

[>>See here for more details on Firewood Month 2026 Webinars<<](#)

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*Photo of a yellow-legged hornet (Vespa velutina) obtained from USDA APHIS Daily Digest Bulletin*

## **APHIS Asks for Help Detecting Yellow-Legged Hornet**

Did you know? The public is often the first line of defense when detecting new

for this invasive wasp which preys on honey bees and threatens our agricultural and native ecosystems. Public reports have already helped authorities locate multiple nests and remove them before reproductive hornets emerged. APHIS asks the following for how to help if you think you have found a yellow-legged hornet or nest:

- Do NOT disturb the insect or nest.
- If it is safe, try to take a photo.
- Record the exact location (address or GPS pin).
- Report it directly to your state using the links below.

#### TO REPORT:

- In Georgia: call the Dept. of Agriculture (404) 656-3600, email [yellow.legged.hornet@agr.ga.gov](mailto:yellow.legged.hornet@agr.ga.gov), or use the [GA Reporting Form](#)
- In South Carolina: call Clemson University Dept. of Plant Industry (854) 646-2140 or use the [SC Reporting Form](#).
- In North Carolina, call NC Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Area 2 Apiary Inspector (919) 930-1859 or use the [NC Reporting Form](#).
- In other states: contact the [State Plant Regulatory Official](#) of [State Plant Health Director](#).

[APHIS Page on Yellow-legged Hornet >>](#)

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## EAB Confirmed in Two New EU

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is not only creeping across North America, but in European countries as well. EAB was confirmed in two new countries for this first time this summer, both in [Slovakia](#) and [Hungary](#). There will likely be more information on this in the coming weeks.

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## Sign up for this newsletter

**If you received our newsletter from a colleague** forwarding you this email and are interested in subscribing to receive it monthly, **please use our sign-up portal found [here!](#)**

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## Recent Forest Pest Publications

[Preventing defoliation by spongy moth \(\*Lymantria dispar\*\) with systemic insecticides and their interaction with nitrogen supplementation](#)  
*Arboriculture & Urban Forestry, August, 2026*

[Nuisance or not? Tourism impacts from spongy moth tree defoliation in U.S. National Park Units](#)  
*Journal of Environmental Economics and Policy, July 8, 2026*

[\*USFS Treesearch, July, 2026\*](#)

[LiDAR-based assessment of treetop dieback to detect Asian longhorned beetle damage in poplar forests](#)

[\*International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation, July 1, 2026\*](#)

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## Forest Pests In the News

[Destructive emerald ash borer reaches more Oregon towns](#)

[\*OPB, August 6, 2026\*](#)

[Deadly fungal disease threatening trees found in 5 Long Island towns](#)

[\*ABC Eyewitness News, August 3, 2026\*](#)

[Emerald ash borer summer update: Information, action and community science](#)

[\*Maine Audubon, July 30, 2026\*](#)

[Minnesota DNR offering \\$1.7M in community grants to address emerald ash borer impacts](#)

[\*MNDNR, July 20, 2026\*](#)

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*Georgetown University, July 16, 2026*

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