Ecological Threat

- Can cause severe damage to several different hardwood species.
- The beetle larvae feeding on living tree tissue during the fall and winter, then emerge after pupating in the spring.
- The larvae tunneling activity in the xylem and the phloem cuts off essential nutrients from the tree, ultimately killing it.

Description

- Introduced from China, the Asian Longhorned Beetle entered the U.S. in solid wood packing material and was first discovered in 1996 in New York.
- Adults are 1 to 1 1/2 inches in length, black and shiny with white spots and have long antennae.
- Attacks a variety of hardwood trees including maple, birch, horsechestnut, poplar, willow, elm, ash, black locust.
- Adult beetles are active during the summer and early fall. Eggs are laid in areas scraped away by the female, after hatching the larvae tunnel into the tree and feed on the bark. They have a one year life cycle.

Signs of Infestation

- Asian Longhorned beetles leave behind deep, round exit holes often oozing with sap.
- Dime-sized egg laying sites, the result of larval feeding, can also be found, with saw dust at the foot of the tree.
- Once the xylem and phloem have been disrupted the leaves will start to droop and turn yellow.

Prospects for Management

- Immediate removal of infested trees is critical to prevent continued spread.
- Asian Longhorned Beetle has no natural enemies native to North America.
- Quarantines have been established around New York and Chicago to prevent the spread of the beetle.