

# LOOK OUT FOR

## ASIAN LONGHORN BEETLE (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)



Figure 1. Adult Asian Longhorn Beetle  
Photo courtesy: Donald Duerr, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

### WHAT IS IT?

Asian long-horned beetle (ALHB) is an invasive forest pest with no natural enemies in Australia that attacks nearly all broadleaf trees, with maples, poplars, willows and elms being the preferred hosts. It also attacks plane trees, which are a widely planted street tree in Adelaide. It is not known to occur in Australia but has spread to other parts of the world in untreated wooden shipping pallets.

Adults lay their eggs in hardwood trees, and larvae then tunnel through the living tissue of the tree stopping the flow of water and nutrients, killing it. It is important to be on the lookout for this dangerous invader.

### WHERE COULD IT COME FROM?

Asian long-horned beetle is not known to be present in Australia. It is native to China, Japan and Korea where it is considered a major pest causing mortality of elm, maple, poplar and willow trees. It has been accidentally introduced to the United States, where it was first discovered in 1996, as well as Canada, Trinidad and several countries in Europe.

### HOW IS IT SPREAD?

The highest risk of Asian longhorn beetle getting into Australia is on imported timber and wood pallets or packing materials from overseas, or on other timber items such as furniture. For this reason timber products from Asia must be treated before being imported or on arrival in Australia.

Adult beetles emerging from infested timber or trees can fly up to 1-2 km in search of a new host tree.

### WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

Asian longicorn beetles could cause serious damage to our forestry industry, natural environment, gardens and street trees. They attack healthy trees and can kill many species of trees including species that are common street and garden trees. The beetle larvae burrow deep into the heartwood of trees to feed, making this pest hard to control using insecticides. Control is only possible by cutting down and chipping or burning infested trees and then replacing them with species not attacked by the beetle.



Figures 2. Depressions chewed by female beetle during egg laying  
Photo courtesies: Joe Boggs, Bugwood.org

## WHAT DO I LOOK FOR?

### Adult beetles (Figure 1)

- occur in summer and autumn
- are shiny black with prominent, irregular white spots
- 20-35 mm long and 7-12 mm wide
- Have long, black and white banded antennae, 1-2 times its body length
- Have distinct bluish-white legs
- Lay eggs under the bark of trees

### Infested trees

- Dead and dying tree limbs or branches, particularly in the crown
- Look for exit holes approximately 1 cm across in these branches
- Exit holes may ooze sap and have coarse sawdust or "[frass](#)"

Larvae tunnel inside the tunnels with larvae, which can grow up to 50 mm long

### Infested timber e.g. timber pallets imported from overseas

- Exit holes and/or tunnels in the wood, with sawdust-like shavings ("frass")
- grinding noises coming from within the timber or furniture



Figure 3. Life Cycle  
Courtesy USDA

[Spot It | Asianlonghornedbeetle.com](http://Spot It | Asianlonghornedbeetle.com)

**If you see anything unusual,  
Call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline**

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE  
1800 084 881**

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