

Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation

Approximately 50-60 trees infested with the Asian longhorned beetle were found in an industrial area of Linden between the New Jersey Turnpike and the Arthur Kill this week.

Many of the infested trees found in eastern Linden bore signs of long-term infestation, such as healed-over exit holes. This infestation is being seen as a clue to earlier findings of individual infested trees without others close by, said Carl Schulze, Director of the NJDA's Division of Plant Industry.

While the newly discovered infestation area was not a part of the existing quarantine zone, the trees there were examined after staff members from the Agriculture Department and USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) began conducting some computer modeling based on the last few isolated finds and decided this was an area that should be further examined.

"This is what we had been looking for when we were doing the computer modeling," Schulze said. "We now believe this is where that population was coming from."

The discovery in late March of a single infested horsechestnut tree in northern Linden triggered the expansion of the existing quarantine zone to also include parts of Roselle Borough and Elizabeth, where survey work will be done to determine if the beetle has infested any trees in those towns.

The Department and USDA will again expand the quarantine zone due to the new find in eastern Linden. The expansion is not expected to add any other New Jersey municipalities not already touched by the quarantine. However, it is expected to add an area of Staten Island that would be under the jurisdiction of New York State.

Meanwhile, treatments with the pesticide imidacloprid are being planned for 2,200 trees in a half-mile radius around the tree in northern Linden that was found infested with the ALB on March 23. Last week's report erroneously stated those treatments had been completed.

The NJDA is working with Roselle Borough and Elizabeth to establish dates and times for at least one public information session on the beetle.

The infested horsechestnut tree found in the northern section of Linden was the first new detection since November 2005. It was removed on Wednesday, March 29. The tree had approximately 20 fresh egg sites on it, but no exit holes, indicating that no adult beetles had emerged from the tree.