



United States Department of Agriculture

**Forest Service**

Hoosier National Forest  
811 Constitution Avenue  
Bedford, IN 47421  
Web: [www.fs.usda.gov/hoosier](http://www.fs.usda.gov/hoosier)



# Hoosier NF Highlights

Media Contact: Teena Ligman  
Voice: (812) 275-5987  
Cell: (812) 675-3826  
[tligman@fs.fed.us](mailto:tligman@fs.fed.us)

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Contact: Teena Ligman, 812-275-5987

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## Another forest pest looms



By Chris Thornton, Forest Silviculturist

As I write this, if I look closely, I can see the start of woodpeckers attacking ash trees as they feast on emerald ash borer larvae chewing away under the bark. We should see woodpecker damage from their feeding on this pest over the winter as the beetle has moved across the southern part of the state, infesting trees in its wake.

The emerald ash borer has been well publicized and has helped change public perception about things like using local firewood, and being aware of where our nursery stock comes from. While this pest is devastating, another pest is east of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Asian long horned beetle is another insect that came in solid wood packing material from China. It was detected in Chicago in the 90's and eradicated. It is also present in Long Island, New York City, and Boston, and under eradication efforts by USDA. The beetle was previously eradicated from locations in New Jersey, across from New York City. Now, the most recent detection was in 2011, east of Cincinnati Ohio, in and around the town of Bethel. Previous infestations had been eradicated by removing the trees and treating trees with insecticide. The area in Ohio is more of a rural forest area plus an urban area when compared to the urban infestations of Chicago and the northeast. This makes eradication a longer process and more difficult.

The Asian long horned beetle may make its way to our area. It could only be a matter of time before someone violates the quarantine and moves infested firewood from the Ohio infestation. There might also be another introduction through wood packing material in

international trade. The consequence of this movement is the threat to and potential loss of tree species such as maple, birch, sycamore, elm, poplars, and willows, all hosts of the Asian long horned beetle. Think about how many of these species are in our forests and lining our trees, parks and backyards. How could our forest change in the future without these species?

The beetle kills its host trees by girdling the branches, weakening the branch through creating tunnels in the wood that leads to breakage, branch dieback and tree death. This tree damage and death is slow compared to Emerald Ash Borer, but is still a major concern to the health of the urban and rural forests.

Symptoms are the beetle itself. They are large (3/4" to 1 1/4" long), jet black with white spots on their body. They have very large antennae with distinctive black and white bands. Other things to watch for are round holes that are 3/8" diameter or larger, accumulations of coarse sawdust, and oozing sap in the summer.

Keep an eye out for these symptoms as early detection is the key to eradication. If you see anything this next summer you can report it on the website [asianlonghornedbeetle.com](http://asianlonghornedbeetle.com) or download the smartphone App – ReportIN (<http://www.eddmaps.org/indiana/>) to make your report.

Using ReportIN App is the preferred method of reporting since it allows you to take a picture of what you see, post the location information and other facts that are submitted by the App to DNR. You can also contact the Indiana Department of Natural Resources at 1-866-NO EXOTIC (866-663-9684).

For more information on insects or diseases on the Hoosier National Forest contact Chris Thornton at [cdthornton@fs.fed.us](mailto:cdthornton@fs.fed.us) or 812-547-7051.



Beetle by a site on a tree limb prepared for laying eggs which will hatch into larvae. Photo courtesy of [asianlonghornedbeetle.com](http://asianlonghornedbeetle.com)



Asian Long horned Beetle showing approximate size. Dennis Haugen, USDA Forest Service



Asian Long horned beetle exit holes with dime for reference size. E. Richard Hoebeke, Cornell University, Bugwood.org



Asian Long horned beetle larvae. Photo by Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS