TREE REMOVALS TO FIGHT ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE INFESTATION TO BEGIN WEEK OF JANUARY 5, 2009

January 2, 2009 - The Massachusetts Asian Longhorned Beetle Cooperative Eradication Program will begin tree removal operations to address the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) infestation in Massachusetts the week of January 5, 2009, weather permitting.

The work is expected to impact 6,000 trees determined to be infested with ALB in the Worcester area, and will be performed by two companies, Northern Tree Service and Mayer Tree Service.

Operations will begin on January 5th with ten tree removal crews from the two companies. Each crew will be comprised of a chipper truck, a bucket truck, a chipper machine and three to four individuals. The crews will be concentrated in three areas in Worcester during initial operations—Quinsigamond Community College, Kendrick Field and the Greendale neighborhood. Work in these sections could take from five to six weeks. Please see the accompanying map for additional information.

The crews will start work on Quinsigamond Community College property, Kendrick Field park property (including the nearby Mount Avenue) and the Greendale neighborhood starting with Fairhaven Road and Greendale Avenue. Then, work will move out as follows.

The area surrounding Quinsigamond Community College includes:

Assumption Avenue

Marland Road

Perth Court

Dundee Court

Marland Court

The area surrounding Kendrick Field includes:

Mount Avenue

Frontage Street

New Bond Street

Brooks Street

Margaret Street

Stanley Road

Rockdale Street

Higgins Street

Eames Road

Beamon Avenue

Boxford Street

Ararat Street

Marshfield Street

Prudence Street

Woburn Street

The Greeendale area includes:

Fairhaven Road

Greendale Avenue

Fales Street

Francis Street

Airlie Street

Biddeford Avenue

Kendrick Avenue

Whitmarsh Avenue

Dorothy Avenue

Jeppson Avenue

Cutting Avenue

Leeds Street

Cheshire Road

Woodridge Road

Claffey Avenue

Granville Avenue

Hillcroft Avenue

Chatham Village Road

Paul Street

Lorion Avenue

Burncoat Street

West Boylston Street

Property owners living in the regulated area where removal operations will take place have been notified by the State of Massachusetts of infested tree(s) on the property and of the option to remove high-risk host trees—trees likely to be infested due to their proximity to infested trees. In addition, door hangers announcing the upcoming operations have been distributed to impacted homes and ALB program employees have visited communities to answer questions and collect the property access permission forms required for tree removals on private property.

The removal process is expected to take place throughout the winter and into the spring months. Trees will be chipped to a size that destroys ALB larvae and pupae developing deep within them. Tree stumps will also be ground to ensure all lifestages of the insect are addressed.

Intensive surveys to determine the scope of the infestation faced in Massachusetts have taken place in and around the City of Worcester since the beetle's detection was reported on August 1, 2008 to State and Federal officials. The surveys in Massachusetts have resulted in a regulated area of 64-square miles that encompasses the City of Worcester and parts of the surrounding towns of Holden, Boylston, West Boylston and Shrewsbury.

The U.S Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the U.S. Forest Service and the City of Worcester form the Massachusetts ALB eradication partnership.