New Tree Pests Threatening from the North and South

Photo courtesy: Melody Keena, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Asian Longhorned Beetle

During summer 2011, Kentucky learned of yet another invasive pest that can

devastate our tree Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) was found in Bethel, Ohio, just east of Cincinnati and only a few miles north of Kentucky. In the year since its discovery, this beetle been found infesting thousands of trees in

has been found infesting thousands of trees in and around the area. Ohio is the fifth state to have the beetle since its arrival in the U.S. in the mid-1990s, and infestations are expected to spread. The ALB has not been found in Kentucky, but that doesn't mean that it won't one day.

The Asian longhorned beetle is a very different beetle than the emerald ash borer (EAB). EAB only kills ash trees—even though it affects large amounts of them at one time and spreads to kill trees quickly. ALB affects many different kinds of trees; its favorites seem to be maples, buckeye, birch, elm and willow. ALB is also different in that it moves into the xylem (farther inside the tree), which is out of the way of effective insecticides. Thus, ALB cannot be controlled chemically.

These pests are always spread by people, although not intentionally. They are spread in firewood, wooden crates, pallets, and woody debris from trees. Pests that live inside of trees can't be stopped by simply spraying a pesticide on

weeds.

a tree like we are used to

doing with row crops or

many different reasons.

see circular holes about

half the size of a dime in

your trees and they aren't

caused by woodpeckers,

However, if you begin to

Trees die all the time for



The exit hole of the Asian Longhorned Beetle is a large circular hole in the bark. This beetle affects numerous tree species but seems to prefer maples.

Photo courtesy: Joe Boggs, Bugwood.org

start asking questions. More information about Asian longhorned beetle can be found at the following Web sites: <u>www.dontmovefirewood.org/gallery-of-pests/asian-</u> long-horned-beetle.html and http://beetlebusters.info/

Thousand Cankers Disease

In August 2010, black walnut trees found dying in the Knoxville, Tennessee area were determined to have thousand cankers disease (TCD), a fungal disease carried by a small beetle that

originated in the southwestern United States. The fungus kills the tissue under the bark of the black walnut tree, and the infected tree slowly dies.

Since 2010, TCD has been found in several counties in eastern Tennessee, eastern Virginia and outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Recently, the beetle has been found in traps in



The fungus that causes TCD is spread by the walnut twig beetle. The fungus creates small cankers under the bark that interrupt the flow of water and nutrients. Eventually the cankers become so numerous that they completely stop the trees flow of water and nutrients until branches and ultimately the tree dies.

Photo courtesy: Ned Tisserat, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Butler County, Ohio. TCD has still not been found in Kentucky, but there is no way to track its movement until it shows up in a new location.

During 2011, the Division of Forestry and UK Office of the State Entomologist with assistance from the U.S. Forest Service surveyed counties in high-risk areas of Kentucky. During the summer of 2012, the Division of Forestry and UK Office of the State Entomologist again surveyed high-risk areas but with the use of insect traps that included a newly developed pheromone lure.

Being a problem that is transported inside wood, such as with Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer, there is no way to predict where it will show up next. Walnut, like other trees,

can die from many causes, but the key signs to look for are many tiny holes found on the bark in addition to branches dying separately from the rest of the tree.

More information about thousand canker disease can be found at the following Web sites: <u>www.dontmovefirewood.</u> <u>org/gallery-of-pests/thousandcanker-disease.html</u> and <u>www.</u> thousandcankers.com/home.php



The exit holes of the walnut twig beetle are very small and difficult to detect. Dying branches are generally one of the first signs noticed.

Photo courtesy: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

If you notice anything that might fit the descriptions of the problems listed in this article, call your local County Extension or Division of Forestry office.

About the Author:

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