



# CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

## Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

Along with enjoying the peak of the warm, summer months, July and August are the time of year to be on the look-out for a large, impressive beetle: the Asian long-horned beetle. It is a gorgeous insect known as 'starry sky' beetle in its native lands of China, Japan and Korea. Although these beetles have not been found in Michigan yet, they have been found in New York, New Jersey,



photo: State of Connecticut : [Click to visit page](#)

Chicago, Massachusetts, and as recently as 2011, near Cincinnati, Ohio. The State of Michigan Dept of Agriculture and Michigan State University Extension continue to keep them on their invasive species list and attention is given this time of year to educate the public of what to look for.

All gardeners need to be familiarized with the Asian long-horned beetle. Be observant and vigilant. Inspect your trees, especially during the summer when damage is most apparent. Adult beetles

can be found between May and October with July and early August being the most likely months. Asian long-horned beetles can cause extensive damage to their host trees - they are especially fond of Norway Maples and other hardwoods such as poplar, elm, willow, pear, plum, black locust and mulberry. They attack healthy trees by chewing ragged, irregular depressions in the bark. The female leaves eggs; her larvae hatch and as they grow, they work their way deeper into the heartwood of the tree. The larvae can remain in the tree one to three years. Once they have become an adult they leave a round exit hole in the trunk of the tree.

So far in New York and Chicago, it is believed the beetle has been eradicated. However, with the finding in Ohio in 2011, there is reason to believe a move to Michigan could happen. Since knowledge and rapid response is the best weapon, here is what to look for:

The shiny, eye-catching adult beetle is .75-1.5 inches in length with scattered white spots. The antennae are longer than the body and the legs have a frosty, pale blue color. The Asian long-horned beetle does resemble the pine sawyer beetle. When the larvae is in the tree, large amounts of coarse sawdust are found near the holes and irregular paths in the tree, just below the bark. The exit hole is usually about three-eighths of an inch across.

Be aware of what to look for regarding tree damage and call your local MSU Extension educator if you have concerns on what you have found.

Portions of this article were adapted from an article published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <http://msue.anr.msu.edu/>.



**Bill Bauman**

**Christensen's Plant Center**  
**6282 Gotfredson Road**  
**Plymouth, Michigan 48170**

(734) 454-1400 voice

(734) 454-1414 fax

***Return to Archive***

photo: State of Massachusetts :  
[Click to visit page](#)

