

Citrus Longhorn Beetle - History of Infection in UK

The alarm was raised by DEFRA in summer 2008 about this beetle reaching the UK. Citrus Longhorn Beetles were found in the UK following the distribution by mail order of at least 90,000 potentially infested plants. The plants concerned were maple trees (*Acer palmatum*) imported from China via the Netherlands before distribution from Guernsey.

By October 2008 the EU had decided to adopt a new position with respect to its control. Defra introduced Regulations to implement the new EU Decision from the end of October. After this date, all consignments of specified plants must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate containing an additional declaration that, if the plants originate in third countries where CLB is known to be present (which includes China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar and the USA), the plants have basically been grown throughout their life in a place of production officially designated as a pest-free area, or grown during a period of at least 2 years prior to export in a place of production established as free from CLB.

"Specified plants" means plants for planting, other than seeds, of *Acer* spp., *Aesculus hippocastanum* (Horse chestnut), *Alnus* spp., *Betula* spp. (Birch), *Carpinus* spp. (Hornbeam group), *Citrus* spp., *Corylus* spp. (Hazel), *Cotoneaster* spp., *Fagus* spp. (Beech), *Lagerstroemia* spp., *Malus* spp. (including Crab Apples), *Platanus* spp., *Populus* spp., *Prunus* spp. (including ornamental flowering Cherries), *Pyrus* spp. (Pears), *Salix* spp., and *Ulmus* spp. (Elm). So this list includes many plants which are frequently purchased for garden landscaping.

'Please look out for the Citrus Longhorn Beetle' (Defra leaflet)

The citrus longhorn beetle (CLB) (*Anoplophora chinensis*) is a serious invasive pest that originates from China. It is listed in Plant Health legislation and measures are required to control any findings and prevent further spread.

Citrus longhorn beetles have recently been found in the UK and due to the serious nature of these findings, Defra is asking members of the public and those trading susceptible plants to look out for the beetle.

Anybody finding one of these distinctive beetles should isolate the beetle (best in a sealed container) and contact their local Plant Health and Seeds Inspector (PHSI) details of which can be found on the Defra website - <http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/senior.htm> or telephone 01904 455174. The PHSI should also be notified if there is other evidence of CLB infestation.

What to Look Out For:

The beetle is large (21-37mm) and black, with distinct white markings and long "horns" or antennae. The antennae are longer than the body and are black with pale bands.

It can be found on a wide range of trees or shrubs such as oak, beech, ash, maple, apple, pear, willow, hibiscus, horse chestnut, hornbeam, hazel, birch, mulberry and rose.



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The beetles develop inside the tree, taking between one to three years to emerge. Feeding by the beetle larvae within trees creates tunnels in the stems and roots, making them susceptible to disease and wind damage. Prior to emergence, symptoms of infestation are difficult to detect (see below), and there are often no obvious signs to indicate the presence of a larva or pupa within the tree. However, large (6-11 mm) exit holes are left by the emerging adults in the stem, usually close to the ground (see photo below).



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The beetles can emerge at any time during the warmer months of the year, up until October, and usually live for about a month. During this period reproduction can occur if the beetles can manage to find a mate. It is thought that the female beetles prefer to lay their eggs either on trees from which they emerged, or in close proximity. The female chews through the bark of the tree to lay eggs singly in T-shaped slits, between the ground and a height of about 60 cm. Approximately 70 eggs are laid per female but the marks are difficult to spot, especially on small, thin-barked trees. Symptoms of infestation by CLB include

- o Scraped sections of bark
- o Chewed leaves and damage to the petioles by adults
- o T-shaped egg slits in bark
- o Saw-dust like 'droppings' or wood pulp around holes and larval tunnels in the wood under loose or thin bark
- o Exit holes

Further information about the pest is available at
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/plant/pestnote/2006/citlong.pdf>