

Pest Alert: Citrus longhorn beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*)



Fig 1. Adult citrus longhorn beetle © Crown copyright courtesy Fera Science Ltd.



Fig 2. Extracted citrus longhorn beetle larva on cut open branch © National Plant Protection Organization, the Netherlands, Bugwood.org



Fig 3. Acer tree showing exit hole in lower trunk © Crown copyright courtesy Fera Science Ltd.

- A beetle pest from Asia that could establish in the UK and cause **serious damage** to many of our common deciduous trees, especially **maple (*Acer*), birch, (*Betula*) and hazel (*Corylus*)**.
- Detected in imports on several occasions, mainly as larvae within *Acer* saplings arriving from Asia via continental Europe. There have been several outbreaks in continental Europe that have been eradicated, but it is currently still present in parts of Italy (Lombardia and Toscana).
- The adult (**Fig 1.**) is **large, up to 37 mm in length (excluding antennae); black with varying numbers of white spots**; long banded antennae, often longer than the body and long black legs. Very similar in appearance to the related Asian longhorn beetle (also regulated).
- Adults feed on leaves and bark. The legless larvae (**Fig 2.**) can be up to 60 mm in length and are the most damaging stage, boring into trees and feeding on the wood for up to 3 years or more, **causing dieback, secondary infections and can kill the infested tree**. Signs of infestation including the appearance of **sawdust or circular exit holes 10-15 mm in diameter (Fig 3.) in exposed roots and the lower trunk of the host tree**.

If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).

For finds at garden centres, plant nurseries or private gardens in England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:

Tel: 0300 1000 313

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

For finds in non-agricultural crops in Scotland, contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit:

email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

For Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847 Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health>

For finds in the wider environment:

In GB, please use Tree Alert: <https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/>

For NI, please use TreeCheck: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/about-treecheck>

For additional information on UK Plant Health please see:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/uk-plant-health-risk-register/>

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk>