

Long-horned beetle

The **Asian long-horned beetle** (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) is native to eastern China, Japan, and Korea. This species has been introduced to North America and Europe several times, beginning in the early 1990s. The means of introduction was its concealment in wooden crates and pallets.



The Asian long-horned beetle is now one of the most destructive non-native insects in the United States. Every year, it and other wood-boring pests cause an estimated \$3.5 billion in damage in the country. It has entered North America repeatedly as a hitchhiker in wood packaging resulting in numerous infestations. Despite significant expenditure, the Asian long-horned beetle eradication programme has been hampered for several years by inadequate funding.



Europe also has a policy of eradicating the Asian long-horned beetle. Since 2001, European countries have been felling infested trees and spent a significant amount of money. The reasons for these expensive efforts are fears of the damage that the insect will cause if allowed to spread.

Many invasive plant pests have been intercepted on wood dunnage, pallets or other wooden packaging such as cases, boxes, crates, drums, box pallets, load boards, pallet collar, and any other type of wooden packaging. The introduction of the Asian long-horned beetle can be attributed to wooden packaging material moving internationally in trade.

Solutions

To avoid these invasive species taking a heavy toll on ecosystems and forests, the ISPM-15 Standard for Phytosanitary Measures was implemented and considerable investments made in enforcing it (prevention, detection and control, eradication, reforestation, etc.). ISPM-15, which requires treating of wood in international trade, has already been implemented in most exporting countries around the world.

One alternative to wooden pallet material are carton pallets and carton frames which need no treatment. They can be recycled and benefits also include the avoidance of handling hazards such as nails or splinters, and the fact that they are about one-third the weight of wooden pallets.

Industries that are currently using carton pallets and frames include the automotive sector, electrical, pharmaceutical, dry goods, paper products, packaged chemicals and clothing.