

## Asian Long-horned Beetle in Ontario



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Male Asian Long-horned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)



Female Asian Long-horned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*)



The troublesome Asian long-horned beetle has re-emerged, this time from trees in Mississauga, leaving its perfectly round exit holes and fears of another invasion.

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The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) said inspectors confirmed the pest's presence northeast of Pearson airport in late September, after a person found one of the distinctive beetles on his car in August.

Twenty trees have since been removed and two have been confirmed infested, according to the CFIA. A 2.4-kilometre swath of land near the American Drive Business Park, an industrial park at highways 427 and 409, is being surveyed.

The Mississauga tree canopy could face disaster. According to a 2011 technical report prepared by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the worst-case scenario would be costly: 56 per cent of Mississauga's tree population is susceptible to the beetle, amounting to a potential loss of \$702 million.

Actual damage would likely be less severe, the report states. The beetle attacks hardwood species and is especially fond of maple, but will settle for elm, birch, poplar and mountain ash trees, among others.

Larvae burrow in the trees and leave dime-size holes when they emerge as adults with blue-black and white-spotted bodies three centimetres long. The larvae feed on the green inner bark and those exit holes leave the tree structurally unsound and unhealthy. An affected tree can be dead within a few years.

The beetle is native to East Asia and has no natural predators in Canada. It can fly only short distances and typically moves with the transport of cut wood, fire wood and wood packaging materials. The CFIA is asking the public not to move firewood.