

INVASIVE DEFORESTATION



Invasive species such as the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) and Spongy Moth are able to push entire native tree species to extinction. **This is causing rapid loss of native forests, habitats, and biodiversity.**

How did they get here?

The ALB and Spongy Moth were introduced through the transport of infested wooden shipping crates through global trade. Increasing global temperatures increase the habitat range for these insects.
Transportation of firewood by individuals

Why are they a problem?

Invasive insects have no natural predators, so they flourish in new ecosystems. They can significantly damage forest ecosystems. Degraded forest ecosystems contribute to CO2 emissions, water quality problems, soil degradation, and habitat loss. These effects leave the leftover ecosystem more vulnerable to disturbance.

ALB larvae burrow into the growing layers of trees and woody tissue of trees. This leads to the weakening of the trees which can succumb to other illnesses and pests much more easily.

USDA estimates that the ALB is capable of destroying 30.3% of the urban trees in the United States at an economic loss of \$669 billion USD”



Spongy moths harm trees through defoliation, consuming many or all the leaves on a tree. Trees are then unable to photosynthesize and cannot produce needed resources to survive. In the Champlain Valley 50,945 acres mapped as moderately or severely defoliated



SAVE YOUR BACKYARD

- Found larvae/insects on your trees? Scrape them into a water bottle with soap and vegetable oil to prevent reproduction
- Report infestations to your local DCNR
 - Watch out for bore holes, especially in Red Maples (though ALL species are at risk)
- Follow local regulations on bio-controls and pesticides to prevent infestation
- Only buy firewood that has been properly dried and quarantined

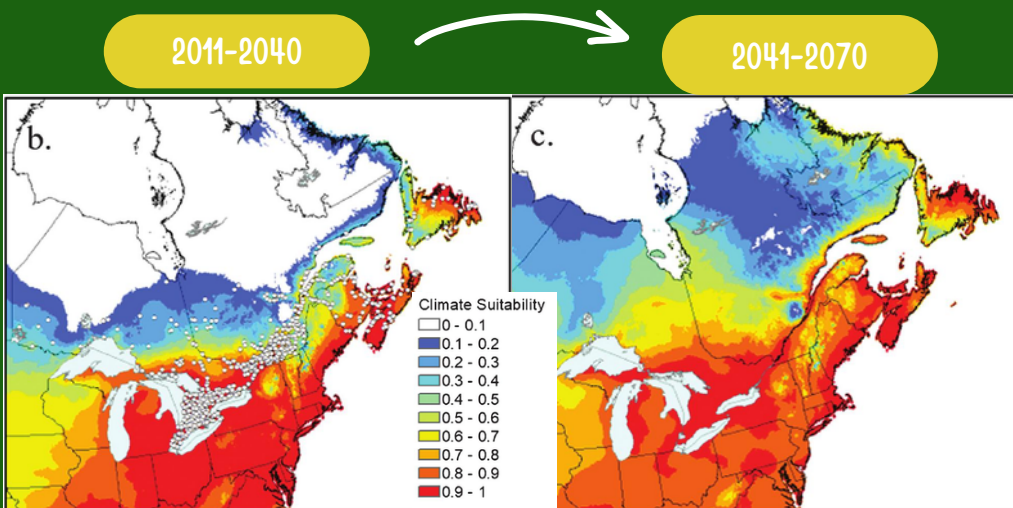
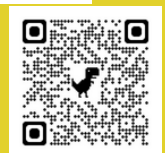
GLOBAL CHANGES

More domestic production = less risk of species transport AND more US jobs
FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE = less habitat range for invasives AND a healthier planet

Why should we care?

Invasive insects have the potential to drive trees that populate urban areas and forests to complete extinction.

More Resources



If global temperatures rise as projected, more and more forested land will be at risk for infestation by ALB and other invasive insects.