



[News Releases](#)

- [2000](#)

- [1999](#)

- [1998](#)

- [1997](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Publications](#)

August 2000

BROWN SPRUCE



LONGHORN BEETLE

Status

The Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle (BSLB) (*Tetropium fuscum*) has been found on 88 sites in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) outside of Point Pleasant Park. As of August 25th, 2000, field crews have surveyed nearly 36,400 trees on 28,400 residential properties in the HRM. To date no infested trees have been found outside of the 15 km radius from Point Pleasant Park. The 75 hectare park itself continues to have the highest population of BSLB with a possible 4,000 to 5,000 trees being infested. In the 88 square kilometres surveyed outside of the park, approximately 270 trees have to date been identified as being infested by BSLB.

Communication

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) with its partners on the BSLB Task Force have made information available on the status of this invasive forest pest on a regular basis.

In order to provide factual information on the BSLB situation in the HRM, the CFIA, Natural Resources Canada - Canadian Forest Service (CFS), HRM and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources have provided two public information sessions at Point Pleasant Park on June 22 and July 26, 2000. Both events were well attended by the public.

The CFIA has included several new documents to the BSLB website page, including the Pest Risk Assessment Summary and additions to the Frequently Asked Questions document. Please see http://www.cfia-acia.agr.ca/english/ppc/science/pps/bslb/bslbhp_e.shtml for more information on the BSLB. In Nova Scotia more information on the BSLB may be obtained by using the CFIA toll-free number through the Halifax CFIA Office -

1-877-868-0662.

Eradication Activities

National forest insect experts from federal and provincial agencies have advised the CFIA that the eradication of the BSLB is a possibility. With this in mind, field crews are removing and incinerating all infested trees as quickly as possible in the area surrounding Point Pleasant Park. Trees are being removed by qualified technicians and transported in a sealed truck to a secure location where this material is then incinerated in a high efficiency air burner unit. The air burner unit is specialized in its design as it forces air into the combustion area and this greatly reduces particulate matter, increasing the performance of the unit. When fully operational the air burner produces no visible smoke and the emissions are within Environment Canada guidelines.



Spruce trees killed by the brown spruce longhorn beetle

Research

Red spruce is considered a high value species by both the forest industry and to forest ecologists. This late-successional species is well-recognized as part of "old-growth" forests in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. But its frequency is on the decline in terms of population sizes and numbers. The recent developments in Halifax's Point Pleasant Park only add to the growing concern for the long-term sustainability of this important forest species. Researchers at CFS are evaluating the reproductive and genetic status as part of a risk assessment in an effort to

develop conservation strategies.

For more information: Gregg Cunningham, Canadian Food Inspection Agency,
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The high efficiency air burner unit used to incinerate infested trees

[Table of Contents](#) | [Search](#) | [Site Map](#) | [What's New](#) | [Francais](#) | [Animal Products](#) | [Plant Products](#)
[Policy, Planning, & Coordination](#) | [Labs](#) | [Acts & Regulations](#) | [Corporate Affairs](#) | [Contact Us](#)

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