

Invasive Insects by Matthew Shirley

As part of the National Tree Check month, the Washington State's Invasive Species Council is asking Washingtonians to check their yards and pool filters for invasive insects.

70 new insect species have been detected since 1990, and 36 percent of those were found by the public. The threat has been calculated at \$1.3 billion dollars a year, in addition to the risks to human health. Pool filters and skimmers are often the first place invasive insects are discovered, though any sudden death among trees that were healthy should be investigated.

One example is the Citrus Long-horned beetle, which was detected and eradicated in Tukwila in 2001. It could return by way of contaminated fire wood, commercial shipping, moving, as well as hitchhiking on planes and trucks.

It is a large, shiny, black beetle with white spots. It leaves 5/8ths diameter bore holes as it feeds and kills hardwoods, like apple, maples, oaks, willows, and poplars. Some native beetles look similar, so it is a good idea to check with the Invasive Species Council.

If you think you've seen an invasive species, please photograph it, and report the findings at Invasivespecies.wa.gov, or the "WA Invasives" mobile app.