



## ORGANICALLY GREEN

HORTICULTURAL SERVICES

Summer Newsletter, 2019

### Pest Alert!

Over the last few years several states nearby have discovered the presence of a new invasive pest, the spotted lanternfly (SLF). Despite the cute-sounding name this pest has the potential to cause severe damage to several industries. It was initially found in Pennsylvania in 2014 at several residential properties but also at a commercial specialty stone importer, with shipments arriving from China, India and Brazil.

This one-inch long insect is related to planthoppers and is native to China, India & Vietnam. It has also become an invasive pest in South Korea and Japan. SLF prefers to feed on tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), another invasive from China. On Long Island, the tree tends to grow in weedy or untended areas like alongside highways. However, the lanternfly will also feed on grapes, fruit trees, oaks, pines and over 70 other species of plants.

Spotted lanternfly is a member of the insect order Hemiptera which also includes such insects as cicadas, aphids and stink bugs. Generally, members

of this order have piercing/sucking mouthparts and the lanternfly is no exception.

The immature early stages of the nymph are black with white spots while the last nymphal stage is red and black with white spots. The adult's outer/fore wings are grayish, with the wing tips having small black spots outlined in gray and closer to the body are larger irregular black spots. The hind wings, which are not visible if the insect is at rest, are red, black and white. The rest of the body is black, but the abdomen also has yellow bands.

The nymphs and adults both feed on plants, sucking sap from stems, leaves, and even trunks. In a bulletin released by the DEC in October, they stated that "feeding by sometimes thousands of SLF, can stress plants, making them vulnerable to disease and attacks from other insects. SLF excrete large amounts of sticky "honeydew," which attracts sooty molds that interfere with plant photosynthesis, negatively affecting the growth and fruit yield of plants. The accumulation of honeydew under infestations, along with the swarms of insects it attracts, can also significantly hinder outdoor activities."



## Summer Newsletter, 2019

Currently in Pennsylvania, there are thirteen counties that are under quarantine help prevent the spread of this insect. The main cause for concern of spreading this invasive is that SLF will lay its eggs on almost any smooth surface such as cars, structures, equipment, vehicles, patio furniture- making it easy to unknowingly spread this pest by anyone.

Adults may congregate in large numbers in the fall to mate and lay eggs. The eggs themselves look like small brown seeds laid in four-seven vertical columns about one-inch in width. The eggs are then covered in a greyish mud and as the egg masses age they start to develop a dry, cracked appearance. Each mass can contain anywhere from 30 to 50 eggs and it is believed that each female lays one or two of these masses from September to early December. These egg masses will overwinter with the nymphs hatching as early as April.

Once hatched the nymphs will go through 4 stages (instars) with the 4<sup>th</sup> instar having the red and black coloration. Although the nymphs have wings, they are suspected of being weak fliers and migration to a new host is accomplished -as their family name implies- by hopping to plants (with the aid of their wings).

In August of last year, it was discovered in New Jersey in three counties. In the fall, a dead adult spotted lanternfly was found near Albany and

Pennsylvania and after inspections, it was determined that no other insects were present. In October, an adult was trapped in Cecil County, Maryland near the border of Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Also, during this month three dead and one live SLF were found in a shipment from Pennsylvania to a Deer Park tree nursery. The DEC and Dept. of Agriculture and Markets conducted an extensive search but found no other insects and believe there are currently no established populations. As a result of this incident, a quarantine has been established that restricts the movement of goods into New York from other affected states. The items that are restricted under the quarantine, such as landscaping/construction equipment and plant material are required to have certificates of inspection from the originating impacted state.

Currently, the best method to controlling spotted lanternfly is limiting its movement. The DEC and Dept. of Ag & Markets is “urging the public to inspect outdoor items such as vehicles, outdoor furniture and camping equipment for egg masses or insects and report any sightings by sending photos to [spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov](mailto:spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov).”

For more information: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/113303.html>

Sources:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/bulletins/2159249>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/114646.html>

<https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/spotted-lanternfly>





E. Swackhamer



PA Department of Agriculture



PA Department of Agriculture



PA Department of Agriculture



PA Department of Agriculture

- A. Egg masses
- B. Early nymph
- C. Late nymph
- D. Adult, wings closed
- E. Adult, wings open





*Tree-of-heaven, late summer*



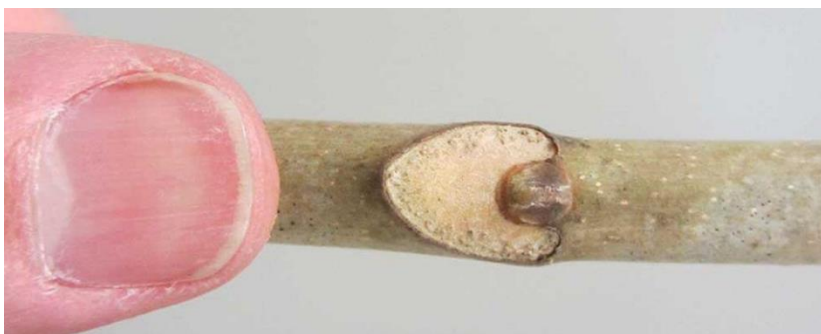
*Seeds/Samaras*



*Leaf (Pinnately Compound)*



*Flowers*



*Leaf Scar*





*We offer the following services:*

Landscape Services:

- 🌿 Landscape Design & Installation
- 🌿 Ornamental & Mature Tree Pruning
- 🌿 Seasonal Displays
- 🌿 Spring Bulb Planting
- 🌿 Tree and Shrub Maintenance & Removal
- 🌿 Sod Installation
- 🌿 Tree/Shrub Transplanting
- 🌿 Air Spading
- 🌿 Radial Trenching
- 🌿 Vertical Mulching
- 🌿 Holiday Lighting

Plant Healthcare Services:

- 🌿 Tree/Shrub Plant Healthcare
- 🌿 Fertilization Programs
- 🌿 Anti-Desiccant Spraying
- 🌿 Flying Insect
- 🌿 Deer Repellent
- 🌿 Organic Tick & Flea Control

