



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, July 29, 2021

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CAES Announces the Finding of Spotted Lanternfly in Fairfield and Westport, Connecticut

New Haven, CT - The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in cooperation with USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) announce the detection the largest population reported to date of nymphs of the spotted lanternfly (SLF) on *Ailantus* (Tree of Heaven) in Southport in Fairfield, and another infestation nearby in Westport, Connecticut. A few adults were also found. Surveys in the area of these detections will be conducted by state and federal plant inspectors to determine the extent of the infestation. In 2020, multiple adult SLF populations were detected in Greenwich, New Canaan, and Stamford, with a detection in Norwalk in July 2021. "These detections of the spotted lanternfly indicate that this insect is expanding in Fairfield County and raises major concerns for Connecticut's agriculture" said State Entomologist Dr. Kirby Stafford. Further detections are likely. Single adults were detected in Farmington in 2018, Southbury in 2019, and West Haven in 2020, likely hitchhikers on vehicles from other infested states. The public is urged to report potential sightings of this invasive pest. If you suspect you have found a SLF, snap a picture of it, collect it if possible, and report it to ReportSLF@ct.gov. More information about SLF and state quarantine requirements can be found at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/CAPS/CAPS/Spotted-Lanternfly---SLF>. Additional information is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Forest-Protection/Spotted-Lanternfly> and <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>.

Native to China, India, and Vietnam, the spotted lanternfly is an invasive sap-feeding planthopper that was discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014. SLF infestations have been reported in New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, New York, and Connecticut. The nymphal stage of this insect is currently active with adults appearing late summer. In the fall, adults about 1 inch long can often be found congregating on tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus*), willows and other trees. They will lay egg masses on trees and almost any nearby surface like rocks, decks, houses, outdoor equipment, and furniture, etc. Nymphs of SLF will hatch from the eggs in the spring (late April-June). This insect attacks many hosts and has the potential to severely impact Connecticut's farm crops, particularly apples, grapes, and hops, and several tree species. The secretion of excess sap called honeydew can also be a nuisance for residential homeowners.

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Adult spotted lanternfly with wings spread
Photo Credit: CT Agricultural Experiment Station



Adult spotted lanternfly, normal resting position
Photo Credit: CT Agricultural Experiment Station



Spotted Lanternfly nymphs in Fairfield, CT
Photo Credit: CT USDA-APHIS-PPQ

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