

Brief Summary of Public Hearing for Spotted Lanternfly Held On
May 18, 2021 and Response to Comments
Kirby C. Stafford III, State Entomologist

A public hearing on the adoption a quarantine order for spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula* (SLF for short), was held on May 18, 2021 via Webex at 6 PM. Legal notices for this hearing were published in the following newspapers on May 10, 2021: *Hartford Courant*, *New Haven Register*, *Waterbury Republican American*, and *New London Day*. Notice was also provided to the CT Nursery and Landscape Association, three major nurseries that ship product out of state, and made available on the CAES website on May 10, 2021.

Dr. Jason C. White, Director of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and Dr. Kirby C. Stafford III, State Entomologist, presided over the hearing. The Webex hearing was recorded by Carole Briggs, CT Department of Agriculture, and is available upon request. There were eleven people in attendance.

Dr. White provided the welcome to attendees, introduced the purpose of the hearing, and Dr. Stafford's opening remarks covered the purpose of the quarantine, risk to the nursery and agricultural industries in the state, background, and current status of spotted lanternfly in Connecticut.

Background for Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine in Connecticut provided by Dr. Kirby Stafford:

In 2020, established populations spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula* (SLF for short) were detected in Connecticut in Fairfield County in the towns of Greenwich, New Canaan, and Stamford. Single individuals have been detected in several towns such as Farmington, Southbury and West Haven with no associated infestation as this insect can readily hitch hike via cars, trucks, and other transportation.

The spotted lanternfly is an exotic, invasive sap-feeding planthopper that was discovered in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 2014 with infestations in at least 9 states. It is native to China, India, and Vietnam. The spotted lanternfly represents a threat to Connecticut's environment, residential areas, and agricultural interests, particularly forests, orchards, vineyards, and nurseries. It attacks a wide range of fruit, ornamental, and woody trees, with tree of heaven being a preferred host. It has the potential to severely impact Connecticut's farm crops, particularly our orchard, grape, and hops industries and move into our wooded and residential areas. Because of the copious amount of honeydew they produce, SLF can become a significant nuisance in residential areas. In the fall, adults 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, which can facilitate spread. Early detection is important for the protection of Connecticut businesses and agriculture and prevent movement of infested articles.

The purpose of this spotted lanternfly quarantine is to slow the spread of SLF within the state and provide for certification of Connecticut businesses and homeowners for movement of regulated articles out of state and help protect the economic interests of the state's agricultural industries by suppressing, controlling, or eradicating infestations of Spotted Lanternfly in regulated areas. This will provide by inspection or compliance agreements methods to permit the movement of regulated articles not infested with spotted lanternfly and meet requirements set forth by SLF exterior quarantines in other states. Regulated areas are those with established populations of SLF as determined by this order and CAES and posted by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

The Director of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station by the authority of Connecticut General Statute Section 22-84 will promulgate a Notice of Order of Quarantine for Connecticut to prevent and slow the further spread of this pest. The draft of the order was posted on the CAES website and notice of this hearing appeared in four newspapers on May 10th, meeting statutory requirements for notification by which five days' notice shall be given to the parties affected, either by mail or by publishing such notice in two newspapers having a circulation in the part of the state affected by such quarantine. This order sets forth: definitions, regulated articles, regulated areas, conditions of movement, violations and penalties, and special exemptions for research or cooperation with federal plant regulatory authorities. The quarantine order shall become effective July 1, 2021, and will remain in effect until December 31, 2021, after which the quarantine may be renewed, rescinded by the Director, or replaced by the promulgation of regulations.

At this point the hearing was turned back over to Dr. Jason White, Director of CAES, who noted that the quarantine order was drafted with the assistance of lawyers from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the Attorney General's Office. He highlighted the major provisions of the quarantine order and opened the hearing to questions. There were eleven attendees, including Drs. White, Stafford, Deputy State Entomologist Dr. Victoria Smith, and Carole Briggs, who managed WebEx in the background. Questions covered what other agencies would be involved, why SLF first showed up in Fairfield County, existence of natural predators, and what the order means for garden centers, which were answered by Drs. Stafford and Smith. Dr. Stafford also pointed out that homeowners who may be moving will have an SLF checklist like one from the USDA for gypsy moth. In addition to the oral comments or questions, written testimony was received from the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association dated May 18, 2021. The comment related to an error in the definition of a Stop Sale which was considered appropriate and CAES elected to make the change to the proposed definition. Dr. Stafford ended by mentioning that the three current regulated areas when the order goes into affect on July 1st are Greenwich, Stamford, and New Canaan and others will be posted as established infestations are detected. With no further questions, Dr. White ended the hearing at ca. 6:25 PM.

A final version of the Spotted Lanternfly Order of Quarantine will be signed by the Director and made available on the CAES website spotted lanternfly page.

Respectfully submitted,



Kirby C. Stafford, III
Hearing Officer and State Entomologist