



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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PRESS RELEASE

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CAES Announces the Finding of a Spotted Lanternfly Population in New Canaan, Connecticut

New Haven, CT - The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in cooperation with USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) announce the detection of populations of adults of the spotted lanternfly (SLF) in New Canaan and a single individual in Stamford, CT. Surveys in the immediate area of each detection will be needed by state and federal plant inspectors to determine the extent of the infestation. In September, multiple adult SLF were detected in Greenwich and a single adult insect, likely a hitchhiker, was found in West Haven. "These further detections of populations of the spotted lanternfly indicate that this insect is finally here in Connecticut and raises concerns for Connecticut's agriculture and trees and the detection of individual insects in other locations shows they are readily being transported into the state" said State Entomologist Dr. Kirby Stafford. Single adults were detected in Farmington in 2018, and Southbury in 2019. Early detection is important, and 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 can be found at: <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly> and <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Forest-Protection/Spotted-Lanternfly>.

Native to China, India, and Vietnam, the spotted lanternfly is an invasive sap-feeding planthopper that was discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014. It has also been reported in New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and New York. 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.

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