Cooperative Extension

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

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INSECTS

Emelie Swackhamer
Horticulture Extension Educator
Penn State Cooperative Extension
Montgomery County

THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY (*Lycorma delicatula*) is a relatively new invasive insect in Pennsylvania. It threatens grapes, stone fruit and trees, but may be found on other plants. It has piercing-sucking mouthparts. It is also a nuisance in landscapes because it produces copious amounts of honeydew which attracts stinging insects and results in heavy sooty mold formation. The adults are starting to appear in the infested area, and they are quite noticeable. To try to limit the spread of SLF, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) has established a quarantine order in PA municipalities where SLF already exists. To be in compliance with the order, everyone must make sure that they are not transporting any living life stages of the SLF to new areas which are not yet included in the quarantine.

To see a map of the current quarantined area and learn more about this new insect go to: http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/protect/plantindustry/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx If you are outside of the area currently under the quarantine order, and you find an insect that you suspect is the SLF, please contact your local Extension office or State Plant Regulatory Official to have the specimen identified properly. This insect has not been found in Delaware yet, but it is found in parts of southeastern Pennsylvania. We need your help to watch out for it!

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

MUSHROOM fruiting bodies usually show up in the late summer and fall, but they have cropped up early and often this season due to wet weather. Fungi are natural decomposers in our ecosystems and grow by threadlike mycelium underground during most of the year. After a period of growth and usually after rains, the fungus will produce a mushroom or fruiting body in lawns, landscapes or forested areas. Mushrooms are mostly water, can be broken up or raked over, and will dry up. Fruiting bodies may come back seasonally until the wood, mulch, or organic material in or under the soil is decomposed. Without seeing a specimen of a fruiting body it is very difficult to tell exactly what it is. Characteristics for identification include type of gills or pores on the undersides of the cap, attachment of the gills, rings on the stalk, bruising color, spore color, and microscopic characteristics. Many fungi are found in association with the roots of certain trees, and identification can be easier

(Continued)

What's Hot!

Late season leaf spots and anthracnose on maples has been evident, with some leaf drop on the maples. We are also seeing shot hole leaf spot and drop on cherries. Long term health of trees should not be affected, rake up leaves that fall.

Spotted lanternfly fourth instars and adults on Ailanthus altissima in August. Photo credit: E. Swackhamer

For more information on pests & practices covered in this newsletter, call your County Extension Office

Helpful numbers to know:

Garden Line (for home gardeners only)	831-8862
New Castle County Extension	831-2506
Kent County Extension	730-4000
Sussex County Extension	856-7303

View more pictures at http://extension.udel.edu/ornamentals/archive/

Diseases (Continued)

knowing tree species with which mutually beneficial mycorrhizal associations exist. Specimens can sometimes be identified in County Extension Offices or by local hobbyists, but are perishable. I recommend that people never eat mushrooms that they find in the wild unless they are positively identified in person by an expert as an edible. Wash your hands after handling various mushroom species. Many poisonous mushrooms look similar to ones that are edible, and a mushroom that does not make you sick the first time you eat it may make you sick the next time. Rely on trusted information from university websites or one such as Michael Kuo's: http://www.mushroomexpert.com/index.html

Mushroom, possible Chlorophyllum sp.
Photo credit: N. Gregory

Anthracnose on maple.
Photo credit: N. Gregory

Editor: Susan Barton
Extension Horticulturist

GROWING DEGREE DAYS

AS OF August 15, 2017

- Swarthmore College (Delaware County, PA) = 2449 ('16 = NA)
- Fischer Greenhouse (New Castle County) = 2485 ('16 = 2583)
- Research & Educ. Center, Georgetown (Sussex County) = 2743 ('16 =2676)