

# ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

## INSECTS

September 20, 2019

Issue 25

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Ornamental IPM Specialist

We are revisiting SPOTTED LANTERNFLY this week because adults are very active in the fall. DE Dept of Ag announced 9-18-2019 that the quarantine now includes all portions of New Castle County north of the C and D Canal to eradicate, control and prevent the spread in Delaware and surrounding states.

They feed on a variety hosts including: tree-of-heaven, grapes, apples, stone fruits, walnuts, willows and others. Adult spotted lanternflies are one inch long by ½ inch wide. The front wings are grey with black spots and the hind wings are red with black spots. Their abdomen is yellow with black bands. They feed on sap from host trees that may cause weeping wounds, which leaves a greyish or blackish sticky trail down the trunk or branch. This feeding and their excreted honeydew are attractive to ants and stinging insects. Adults are active from August until November and females frequently begin egg laying in September. Greyish brown egg masses may be laid on host tree trunks and high canopy branches or limbs or on nearby structures, stones and benches. Heavy populations may cause branch dieback, wilting, or discoloration from excessive sooty mold.

Recent and ongoing research has found two native entomopathogenic fungi that can reduce viability of SLF eggs. Systemic insecticides, such as neonicotinoids, are applied during the summer to manage populations. Stanton Gill and I have a research project at a nursery in PA examining alternative systemic insecticides.

This insect is a good hitch-hiker; so vehicles, people, paving stones, and other items from neighboring states should be examined closely if they are near infestations. DE Dept of Ag has a program searching for this insect and wants to be informed if someone finds this pest.

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## DISEASES

Nancy Gregory  
Plant Diagnostician

BLACK CANKER OF WILLOW is caused by a fungus related to the anthracnose fungi, *Glomerella miyabeana*. It is often found in association with a complex of other fungi, but specific to willow. Symptoms of shoot blight occur on twigs in mid-summer, characterized by a very dark color. Twigs are killed and the fungus survives on larger branches over the winter, causing sunken cankers. Most willow species are susceptible. Spores produced in the spring infect new growth during wet weather or periods of high humidity. Prune out areas with canker when weather is dry in late fall. Many canker type diseases are specific

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## What's Hot!

Bacterial leaf scorch symptoms are noticeable on red oaks, pin oaks, and sycamores, made worse by recent drought conditions.

Spruce spider mite populations should be resuming activity now that temperatures seem to be cooling. They have been activating on host plants since the hot temperatures this summer.

## Insects (Continued)

Follow these steps:

- Take a picture with GPS function turned on your smartphone or camera
- Upload photograph to facebook or Instagram using #HitchHikerBug
- If no GPS or access to social media; then, email [HitchHikerBug@state.de.us](mailto:HitchHikerBug@state.de.us) with your name, contact information, and address where photo was taken
- Collect a specimen in a vial or plastic zip-lock bag
- Turn specimen into DE Department of Agriculture CAPS program
- If a photo or specimen cannot be acquired call (302) 698-4586 or email [HitchHikerBug@state.de.us](mailto:HitchHikerBug@state.de.us) with information detailing location and contact information

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/>

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