

Gardener State: Addressing the spotted lanternfly



The Gardener State
Nicholas Polanin
Guest columnist

They're here...

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) and Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) offices all across the state have been receiving reports of sightings of spotted lanternfly, and everyone can play a role in monitoring for and controlling this exotic invasive insect.

"We have been working diligently to slow the advance of this bug," NJDA Secretary Fisher said. "We are targeting areas where severe infestations have been confirmed, and we also encourage residents to destroy the spotted lanternfly if possible when they see it. It will take a combined effort to help keep this pest from spreading."

While the spotted lanternfly is no threat to humans or animals, it is known to feed on 70 different types of plants and trees. The New Jersey counties under quarantine are Hunterdon, Somerset, Warren, Mercer, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem.

The spotted lanternfly is a plant hopper and can only fly short distances. However, it is an excellent hitchhiker and has been known to ride on any kind of transportation. The Department asks that anyone who travels in a quarantined county do a quick inspection of their vehicle for the spotted lanternfly before leaving.

"NJDA and USDA crews have worked to control the spread of this invasive pest," NJDA Plant Industry Division Director Joe Zoltowski said. "Its ability to travel easily on any mode of transportation has allowed it to spread. We are asking residents to do their part by eliminating this bug whenever possible."

Controlling the adults of spotted lanternfly and its egg masses is vital to slowing its spread.

If a resident has an infestation and would like to treat their own property, a list of options can be found at <https://bit.ly/3eIU7Ei>. Using items such as sticky traps are not recommended as they have been found to be ineffective.

Adult spotted lanternfly will begin laying egg masses in early to mid-Sep-



New Jersey Department of Agriculture Secretary Douglas Fisher recently announced information and instructions for residents who encounter the Spotted Lanternfly.

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tember. These grayish egg masses can be scraped off, double bagged and then thrown away. They can also be placed into alcohol or bleach to kill them. An instructional video on how to destroy the egg masses is available at <https://bit.ly/3fMIw52>.

Residents outside of the quarantine counties can report the exact address of sightings of the spotted lanternfly by emailing Slf-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov or by calling 609-406-6943.

Keep it on the road

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife wants to remind off-road vehicle (ORV) enthusiasts that only registered, insured, street-legal vehicles are permitted in Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), and that they may only

be operated on established roads and parking areas.

While the need for outdoor recreation is recognized during these uncommon times, the state Fish and Wildlife's Conservation Police Officers from the Central Region recently focused their patrol efforts on illegal ORV use in Greenwood Forest Wildlife Management Area located in Burlington and Ocean Counties.

Over a single weekend, numerous ATV and dirt bike riders ignored the numerous "NO ATV" signs posted in the area known as the "clay holes." In addition to violations for operating off-road vehicles and operating unregistered vehicles on the WMA, officers issued summonses for swimming, possession of alcohol, and entering a restricted area. Thirteen ATVs and dirt bikes were impounded. Their owners are now facing

finest starting at \$274 along with impound, towing and storage fees of at least \$300.

New Jersey's Wildlife Management Area System, administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Land Management, preserves a diversity of fish and wildlife habitats from Delaware Bay coastal marshes to Kittatinny Ridge mountain tops. Ranging in size from the 0.68 acre Delaware River Fishing Access Site at the Pennsauken WMA to the 33,000-acre Peaslee Tract in Cumberland and Cape May counties, Wildlife Management Areas provide countless outdoor recreational opportunities for New Jersey residents and visitors from out of state.

Through the years, particularly with the infusion of Green Acres monies since 1961, the mission of the Wildlife Management Area System, has gradually broadened from "Public Shooting and Fishing Grounds" to areas where fish and wildlife habitat is protected and enhanced, while providing a variety of compatible recreational and educational opportunities.

Festomato

Festomato, hosted by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of NJ, or NOFA-NJ for short is a celebration of the tomato all this coming week. This is their second annual celebration of the organic Jersey tomato. Topics include such interests as preserving, tasting, growing, saving seeds, new varieties, pests and diseases, and recipes and cooking, all centered on the beloved Jersey tomato.

All courses are free to those who register at the NOFA-NJ site. But for those who can't make the live virtual events all week, not to worry as the videos will all be available after August 22 on the NOFA-NJ YouTube channel.

Festomato is generously supported by Jammin Crepes, The Experimental Farm Network, Autumn Olive, Whole Earth Center, and Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. For more information on NOFA-NJ, please visit their website at <https://nofan.org/>.

Nicholas Polanin is associate professor, agricultural agent II, Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension of Somerset County. Email him at polanin@njaes.rutgers.edu.