



Spotted Lanternfly Alert in Monroe County *By Rep. Rosemary M. Brown (R-Monroe/Pike)*

The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive insect, native to China, India, Vietnam and Korea, that has been discovered in parts of eastern Pennsylvania. They are different from other invasive insects we have encountered in our state, both in terms of physiology and behavior, and its habits have changed since it was discovered in Berks County in September 2014.

This insect is a serious threat to \$18 billion worth of agricultural commodities in our state, including our apples, grapes and hardwoods. Our interstate and international export industry faces a serious risk on the world market, as trade barriers that prevent shipments from our state would lead to the potential loss of certain industries.

Community members in the following 13 counties have been asked to take personal responsibility by participating in initiatives to control and eradicate the Spotted Lanternfly: Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia and Schuylkill. This is part of a strategic effort to contain the insect's spread, and though the insect hasn't been confirmed in each of these counties, there is a high risk of its rapid spread throughout the region.

The Spotted Lanternfly adult is approximately one inch long and a half an inch wide, with forewings that are gray with black spots and the wing tips. After hatching and before reaching adulthood, this insect progresses through three life phases, known as instars. Both males and females mate numerous times, with females laying 30-50 eggs in each egg mass. This appears to rule out the introduction of sterile males to curb population expansion, but it does mean that scraping and killing egg masses can help to control population growth of the insect.

Going forward, residents in these counties are being asked to scrape egg masses from trees or other surfaces, double bag them, and throw them in the garbage, or place the eggs in alcohol or hand sanitizer. Also, check for egg masses inside or outside, above or below their vehicles before leaving an infested area; buy firewood locally and do not transport it outside of these counties; check lawn furniture, wood products, construction, recreation, outdoor, hunting, camping and other items stored outdoors before bringing them in for the winter, and do not transport brush, yard waste, remodeling or construction waste outside quarantined areas.

Anyone who finds the insects or egg masses outside of the quarantined counties should report sightings to badbug@pa.gov, and include photos, if possible, to help confirm the sighting. You may call the Invasive Species Report Line at 1-866-253-7189 to report additional sightings.

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