

**Spotted Lanternfly Monthly Update to Stakeholders**  
**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF**  
**September 2018**

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets (DAM), the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) have coordinated a multi-agency effort to prevent, detect, and respond to the threat of spotted lanternfly (SLF). First discovered in [Pennsylvania](#) in 2014, SLF is now confirmed in Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, and New York. For a description of the issues surrounding this high priority invasive species please visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/113303.html>. A Unified Incident Command System was established in January 2018 to leverage the joint effort and organize resources and responsibilities. Since then, plans and activities have been implemented, largely focused on early detection and prevention. Raising general awareness is particularly important, with an understanding that public reporting is powerful and effective with such a unique looking pest.

Planning and activities in September focused on the following:

- Confirmed detections of a single, adult SLF in two locations in NY, in Colonie on 8/17/18 and in Penn Yan on 9/1/18. Intensive surveys in the surrounding areas are ongoing and no additional SLF have been found.
- Commercial vehicle inspections, incorporating the use of drones, were conducted in September to look for signs of SLF and to evaluate compliance with regulations. During the inspection on 9/19, a single adult SLF was found dead in the grill of a truck that arrived in NY from the PA Quarantine Area.
- Staff continue to conduct Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and SLF surveys in high risk areas, in cooperation with partners organizations, state agencies and PRISMs. Tree of Heaven is the preferred and potentially necessary host species of SLF. Three dedicated Ag & Markets staff are working full time to survey; 639 km<sup>2</sup> grids have been completed to date.
- Ag & Markets established an External Quarantine via Emergency Orders, effective 9/20, that strengthens the ability of the Department to restrict imports across state lines.
- Staff participate in the SLF Regional Working Group and APHIS meetings.
- Coordination with researchers and staff from USDA, Forest Service, Penn State and PA Department of Ag to understand best methods of control and survey is ongoing.
- DEC and Ag & Markets staff continue to maintain a strong presence via social media to promote SLF awareness, reaching over 240,000 people with various posts. With help from Cornell Cooperative Extension, a suite of educational materials is also being distributed widely including: [factsheets](#), tattoos, bumper stickers, etc.
- Staff made several presentations to various groups and continue to promote SLF resources.

We request that you share this information with your membership and encourage SLF awareness. Please report any sightings to [spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov](mailto:spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov).