



BRANCHING OUT

An Integrated Pest Management
NEWSLETTER
for Trees and Shrubs

Volume 33 No. 7 July 3, 2026

Contents...

Scouting Report

Conifers: Arborvitae Leafminer,
Eastern Spruce Gall Adelgid,
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid 1

Broad-leaved: Asiatic Garden
Beetle, Azalea Leaf Gall, Bleeding
Beech, Cottony Azalea Scale, Eastern
Filbert Blight, Elm Cockscomb Gall
Aphid, Exfoliating Bark, Galls on
Oaks, Globose Scale, Guignardia
Leaf Spot, Hackberry Psyllid,
Japanese Beetle, Jumping Oak or
Spangle Gall, Leaf Spots on Japanese
Maple, Oak Apple Galls, Poplar-
and-Willow Borer, Redheaded
Flea Beetle, Rose Rust, Shothole
on *Prunus*, Slime Flux, Spotted
Lanternfly, Sycamore Plant Bug,
Witch-hazel Leaf Gall Aphid..... 1-3

Feature: Spotted Lanternfly Update:
A Growing Nuisance and Emerging
Agricultural Threat..... Insert

Under the Scope: Crapemyrtle
Bark Scale, Guignardia Leaf Spot,
Laurel Wilt..... 3

Miscellany 3-4

**Phenology, Growing
Degree Days,
Supporters** 4

Thank You to Our Scouts and Diagnosticians

Amy Albam, Carol Bradford, Dawn Dailey O'Brien,
Don Gabel, Sandra Jensen, Hillary Jufer, Karen
Klingenberg, Elizabeth Lamb, Jen Lerner, Jessica
O'Callahan, Zaidee Powers, Alice Raimondo, Mina
Vescera, Mike Voss, Sandra Vultaggio

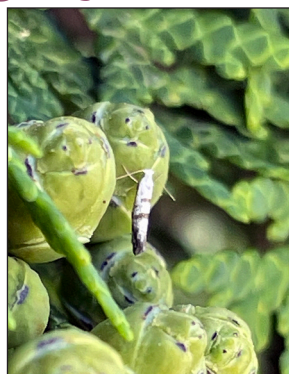
Scouting Report Notations:

- (#) Numbers in regular type note plate(s) in
Insects that Feed on Trees and Shrubs (2nd
edition) by W.T. Johnson and H.H. Lyon.
- (#) Numbers in italics note plate(s) in *Diseases
of Trees and Shrubs* (2nd edition) by W.A.
Sinclair, H.H. Lyon, and W.T. Johnson.

Scouting Report

Conifers

**Arborvitae
Leafminer
(14)**—moths
active in
Suffolk
Co., noticed
around
750GDD
and still
(822GDD)
active.
Spinosad
application
when moths present has worked well.



Arborvitae leafminer adult (Dan Gilrein)

Eastern Spruce Gall Adelgid (50)—
on Norway spruce in Westchester Co.
Galls still green and developing, will
open later in summer.



Eastern spruce gall adelgid gall (Hillary Jufer)

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (32)—
cottony residue from spring egg masses
still noticeable on Canada hemlock in
Suffolk Co. Settled nymphs present will
resume development in fall.

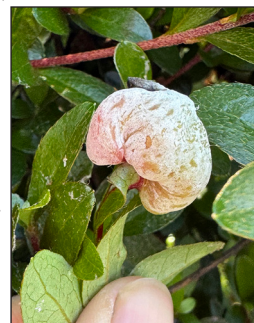
Broad-leaved Trees and Shrubs

Asiatic Garden Beetle—reports of
damage to herbaceous and some woody
plants in the Hudson Valley. Beetles
are active at night - check after dark on
foliage for the brown beetles. They are
attracted to outdoor lights after dark.



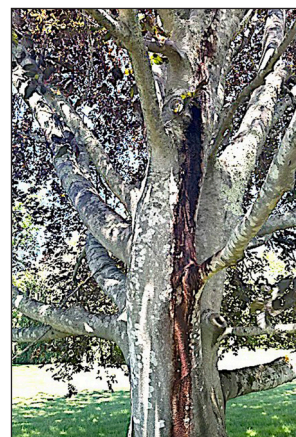
Asiatic garden beetles feeding at night on dahlia, hide during the day in loose soil/debris at the base of the plant. (Doug Muller)

**Azalea Leaf
Gall (124)**—in
Westchester Co.
The spores of
the *Exobasidium*
fungus are
already visible
on the surface of
the galls, so it is
too late to pick
off the galls—
good disease
management
requires removing galls before
sporulation.



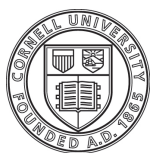
Azalea leaf gall (Hillary Jufer)

**Bleeding
Beech**—in
Suffolk Co.
Possibly an
instance of
slime flux
featuring
the fungus
*Fusicollis
merismoides*
and
associated
micro-
organisms
growing on
sap. One test for *Phytophthora* was
negative, but the investigation is
continuing.



Bleeding beech (Cliff Goldsmith)

Cottony Azalea Scale (163D,E)—egg
masses on bark of azalea in Rockland
and Westchester Cos.



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension



Cottony azalea scale egg masses (Amy Albam)

Eastern Filbert Blight (78)—black lip-shaped growths in rows on branch of *Corylus avellana* ‘Red Majestic’ seen in Onondaga Co. are the stromata of *Anisogramma anomala*, from which ascospores are released. Native *Corylus* are more resistant to this disease than the European *C. avellana*, which is severely affected. Turkish hazelnut is also vulnerable.



Eastern filbert blight (Carol Bradford)

Elm Cockscomb Gall Aphid (224E)—on elm in Chautauqua Co. Two related species



Elm cockscomb gall aphid (Lori Brockelbank)

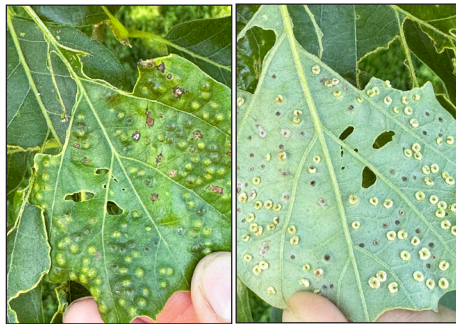
make similar galls on several elms (including *U. americana*, *U. rubra*), using roots of various grasses as summer hosts.

Exfoliating Bark—on Kousa dogwood in Suffolk Co. Brown patches naturally form as a feature of bark development on mature Kousa dogwood.



Exfoliating bark (Donna Kuhl)

Galls on Oaks—*Neuroterus tantulus* gall wasps produce tiny 0.9-1.6mm saucer-shaped galls on white and (here) chestnut oaks; the galls drop early summer leaving small scars.



Neuroterus tantulus galls, top (left) and bottom (right) of leaf (Hillary Jufer)

Globose Scale (175)—adults and settled crawlers on beach plum in Suffolk Co.



Globose scale adults with mealybug-mimic ladybug larva predator (Dan Gilrein)

Guignardia Leaf Spot (19, 20)—on Boston ivy in Nassau Co. See *Under the Scope* to learn more about this fungal disease.



Guignardia leaf spot (Vincent Drzewucki)

Hackberry Psyllid (217D-G, 218J)—button-like galls under leaves of hackberry in Suffolk Co. caused by *Pachypsylla* sp. Nipple galls on leaves in Onondaga Co. also caused by *Pachypsylla* spp. A gall midge, *Celticecis globosa*, also causes roundish leaf galls but larvae inside the galls is very worm- or maggot-like.



Hackberry psyllid galls on leaf underside (Dan Gilrein)

Japanese Beetle (110)—first adults observed on witch hazel in Westchester Co.

Jumping Oak or Spangle Gall?—interesting lesions on swamp white oak in Westchester Co. may be early stage of jumping oak gall (*N. saltarius*, 212 C, D similar) or spangle gall (*Phylloteras*

poculum) wasps. Former produces galls under leaves in June falling off in August; spangle galls will be produced in fall.



Jumping oak or spangle galls on leaf top (left) and bottom (right) (Hillary Jufer)

Leaf Spots on Japanese Maple—possible *Phyllosticta* leaf spots on Japanese maple, not yet confirmed, in Tompkins Co.



Possible *Phyllosticta* leaf spots (Elizabeth Lamb)

Oak Apple Galls (215)—on red oak in Suffolk Co. Several species form similar galls; *Amphibolips quercus-spongifica* wasps emerge by end of June; *A. confluenta* wasps late summer/early fall acc to one source. The bumpy surface suggests this one is the former.



Oak apple gall (Chris Kempton)

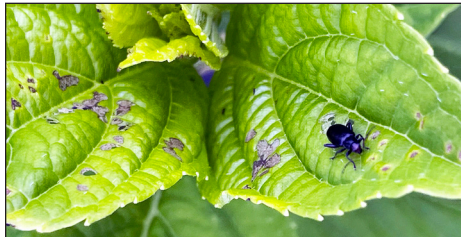
Poplar-and-Willow Borer (126)—damage to willow in Essex Co. likely this invasive weevil. At least three clearwing borer species can also cause somewhat similar injury (willow, northern willow, eastern willow clearwing borers) or can follow on the wounded



Poplar-and-willow borer damage (Christopher DiStefano)

bark. However, larvae of the weevil distinctly differ in appearance from clearwing borers. Protectant bark treatment with residual pyrethroid insecticides have provided good control of PaWB.

Redheaded Flea Beetle—on panicle hydrangea and other shrubs in Suffolk Co. First adults were seen around 780 GDD, many emerging quickly after. This has been almost exclusively a nursery pest. *Itea*, some hollies also favorite hosts.



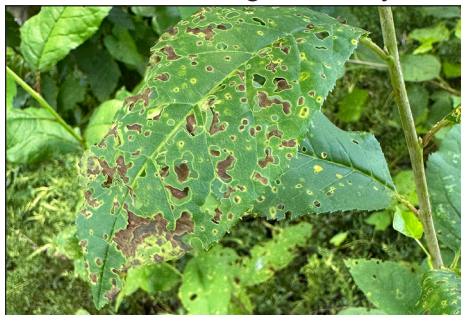
Redheaded flea beetle and damage (Dan Gilrein)

Rose Rust (128)—in Westchester Co.



Rose rust (Hillary Jufer)

Shothole on *Prunus* (199)—shotholing and leaf spots on *P. virginiana* in Onondaga Co. may have been caused by fungal or bacterial infection. The plant is defending itself by walling off the infections and casting them away.



Shothole damage (Carol Bradford)

Slime Flux (191)—on Princeton elm in Dutchess Co. Earlier there was orange slime of the *Fusicolla* fungus associated with this weeping; now you would call it "wet wood."

Slime flux (Anna de Cordova)



Spotted Lanternfly—nymphs on numerous hosts in eastern Suffolk Co., sometimes high numbers esp. on tree-of-heaven. SLF were scarce in this location two years ago.

Sycamore Plant Bug (192A-D)—causing tattered leaves on London plane in Suffolk Co.



Sycamore plant bug damage (Dan Gilrein)

Witch-hazel Leaf Gall Aphid (217A-C)—on witch hazel in Westchester Co. *Hormaphis cornu* produces these conical galls on tops of leaves & odd form resembling mulberry whitefly on river birch (photos: <https://tinyurl.com/3buk2f2b>). Related *H. hamamelidis* also produces conical galls but occurs at higher elevations/latitudes and doesn't host-alternate.



Witch-hazel leaf galls (Hillary Jufer)

Under the Scope:

Reports from Diagnostic Labs

Crapemyrtle Bark Scale—high numbers of crawlers with many eggs still present in Suffolk Co. A treatment will be timed in about a week when most eggs should have hatched.



Crapemyrtle bark scale crawlers and egg masses (Dan Gilrein)

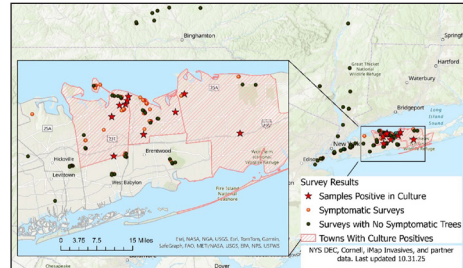
Guignardia Leaf Spot (19, 20)—this closeup shows black pycnidia (spore cases) on lesions caused by *Guignardia bidwellii* on Boston ivy. (See also the

Scouting Report for another illustration). The disease is known as the very damaging "black rot" on grapes and may also affect Virginia creeper.



Top: close up of *Guignardia* leaf spot; above: close up of a pycnidium releasing spores of *G. bidwellii* (Sandra Jensen)

Laurel Wilt—beginning to hear reports of damaged sassafras. (Spicebush is the other host in the Northeast; mountain laurel is NOT a host.) Please advise of any suspect spicebush and suspect sassafras from outside the 2025 Long Island quarantine counties (see map). Getting sufficient DNA can be challenging; we are implementing the newest molecular testing procedure this issue Details: <https://tinyurl.com/mr3hf9n4>



2025 results from laurel wilt surveys. Only samples from Suffolk Co. were positive (NYSDEC)

Miscellany

Asian Chestnut Gall Wasp—highlighted this winter by Tawny Simisky (UMass). Galls petioles, twigs and stems causing stunting, dieback and reduced nut/seed production. Present in



Asian chestnut gall wasp galls (Jeff Rosenblum)

US since 1974, now spread throughout the eastern US in much of the American chestnut range. Other chestnuts (*Castanea mollissima*, *sativa*, *crenata*) also susceptible to galling, but native (*C. ozarkensis*, *pumila*) and Chinese chinquapin (*C. henryi*) rarely galled or show resistance. Fortunately, a parasitoid wasp released for control has been following gall wasp populations, confirmed in UMass diagnostic lab samples and generally keeping the gall wasp under control. More info: <https://tinyurl.com/ACGallWaspMapes2021>.

Asian Longhorned Tick—note distinctive shape of mouthparts from underside. This tick, which reproduces without mating, is spreading rapidly around the eastern US and is a particular threat to domestic animals, some wildlife and occasionally humans. More info: <https://tinyurl.com/ALTickUSDA> and <https://tinyurl.com/ALT-Tenn>



Asian longhorned tick underside (Hillary Juffer)

Phenology by County

Onondaga: catalpa, spirea, hydrangeas, clematis, various roses

Rockland: ailanthus, bush honeysuckle, chestnut, oakleaf hydrangea, linden

Suffolk: elderberry, 'Annabelle' smooth hydrangea, catalpa, mimosa

Tompkins: smoke bush, catalpa

Westchester: ailanthus, privet, butterfly bush, crape myrtle

Dan Gilrein, Karen Snover-Clift, Margery Daughtrey & Shari Romar, editors

Growing Degree Days

As of June 30, 2026

Station	GDD ₅₀	Station	GDD ₅₀
Albany.....	987	Ithaca.....	746
Binghamton.....	822	New Brunswick,NJ.....	1393
Boston, MA.....	1059	Poughkeepsie.....	1091
Bridgeport, CT.....	1078	Riverhead.....	1175
Buffalo.....	840	Rochester.....	909
Central Park.....	1403	Syracuse.....	956
Farmingdale.....	1087	Watertown.....	659
Hartford, CT.....	1091	Westchester.....	1087
		Worcester, MA.....	888

Our Financial Supporters

We thank our supporters for their generous gifts:

- ▶ New York State Turfgrass Association
- ▶ New York State Arborists-ISA Chapter
- ▶ The Orentreich Family Foundation
- ▶ Almstead Tree & Shrub Care Co.
- ▶ Bartlett Tree Experts
- ▶ Michael Bellantoni
- ▶ Evan Dackow / Jolly Green Tree & Shrub Care
- ▶ Long Island Arboricultural Association
- ▶ Stephen Raimondo
- ▶ K. Biene Schaefer / Atlantic Nurseries
- ▶ Shreiner Tree Care
- ▶ Michael Sperber / Nature's Guardian, Inc.
- ▶ Edward Wade / Wade Tree Care, Inc.
- ▶ David Fernandez / Cayuga Landscape Co.
- ▶ Mount Pleasant Cemetery
- ▶ TB Tree Care & Associates
- ▶ Orchard Tree Specialists
- ▶ CWM Horticultural Services, Inc.



Spotted Lanternfly Update: A Growing Nuisance and Emerging Agricultural Threat

Brian Eshenaur, Associate Director, Invasive Species IPM Coordinator, Cornell Integrated Pest Management
(all images courtesy of the author unless indicated)

Introduction

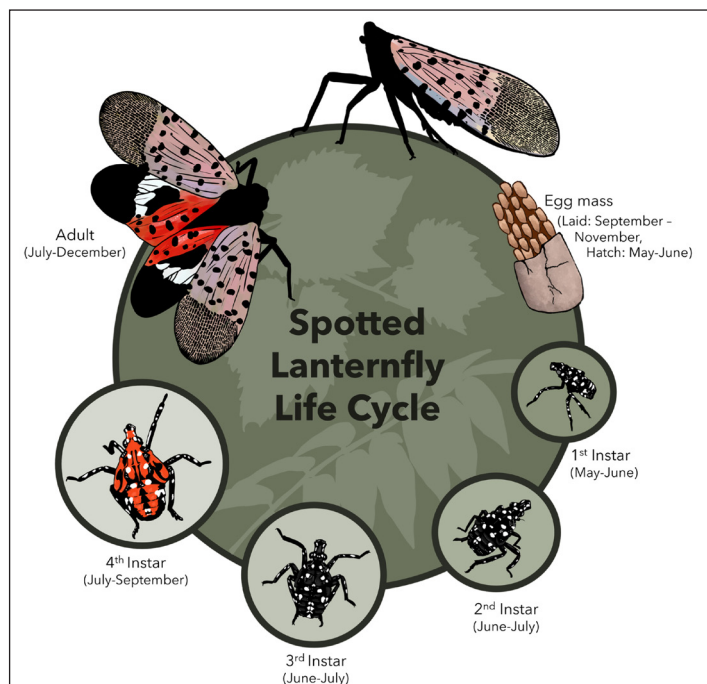
The spotted lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*, continues to expand its range across New York State, and the Eastern US. It is both a nuisance pest and a serious long-term agricultural threat for grape producers. First detected in eastern Pennsylvania in 2014 and New York in 2020, this invasive planthopper has now been confirmed in nearly half of New York State's counties. Widespread populations are firmly established in the New York City region, Long Island, and the lower Hudson Valley. There are also isolated populations in upstate cities including Binghamton, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo.

What to look for during the growing season

Although we experienced a severe winter, all studies have indicated that the SLF eggs can withstand sub-zero temperatures without any loss in viability. Synchronized with spring foliage emergence, the eggs hatch and the first nymphs appear in late April or early May. Those first, early instars are jet black with white spots and about the size of a tick. As the season progresses they become larger, growing to about ½ inch and gaining red coloration in July. In late July and August, inch-long adults appear with their tan spotted wings and red underwings. The adults will feed on tree branches and trunks. The females begin laying eggs in late September and remain active, laying more egg masses, until they are killed for the year by a hard freeze, which can be as late as December.



Clockwise from top left: SLF egg mass on tree, early instar nymphs on Tree of Heaven, 4th instar nymphs, adult.



In the downstate regions of New York, spotted lanternfly has now become a familiar sight during the late summer and fall. While the insects do not bite or sting, their presence can be bothersome. As they feed, extracting plant sap from trees, they excrete a sticky, sugary substance known as honeydew, which coats surfaces below their feeding sites. Honeydew is attractive to stinging insects such as honeybees and yellow jackets, leading to another level of annoyance. In addition, the honeydew allows for the growth of a black fungus known as sooty mold, which can weaken understory foliage by blocking photosynthesis.

Occasionally in the fall there will be a “hot” tree where hundreds of spotted lanternflies congregate and feed. This mass congregation of insects can incite disgust and concern among homeowners, however unlike grapevines, we have not seen any negative impacts to the overall health of those

landscape trees the following growing season. We also like to remind residents that spotted lanternfly cannot survive indoors.



SLF adults on a "hot" tree trunk (T. L. Eshenaur).

Favorite trees of Spotted Lanternfly

Although spotted lanternflies are not picky eaters and move from plant to plant through the growing season, they do have their favorites. Among the trees where we are most likely to find spotted lanternfly are black walnut, silver and red maples, willows, and their absolute favorite, the Tree of Heaven. The weedy, invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) has the same native range of SLF and, conveniently for SLF, is now widespread in North America. When SLF has access to Tree of Heaven they can lay seven times the number of eggs and begin laying eggs weeks earlier compared to SLF that do not have access to the Tree of Heaven. *Ailanthus* also produces phytochemicals which research has shown SLF can sequester to impart a bad taste to certain predators, so birds will avoid feeding on spotted lanternfly that have fed on it. In contrast, SLF are unable to feed successfully on conifers. As a result, spruce, pine, and fir trees are not at risk from spotted lanternfly feeding.

Management and Promise for the Future

For most SLF infestations, treatment is not necessary from a plant health perspective, especially for large trees. Instead, efforts are often focused on reducing nuisance that comes with SLF. Tree of Heaven removal, when done properly, can reduce this key preferred host. For street trees and in parks, some municipalities are using battery-powered backpack

vacuums to successfully remove large numbers spotted lanternfly off the trunks and lower branches.

Mechanical controls like circle traps are practical for capturing nymphs and adults on tree trunks. Careful egg mass scraping in winter can reduce future populations, although the majority of egg masses are high in the tree canopy. There are insecticidal options for both homeowner and commercial applicator use. Because SLF populations cluster unevenly, efforts often focus on "hot trees" in visible or high-traffic areas.

The native ecosystem is an ally in reducing spotted lanternfly numbers. Songbirds, spiders and insects such as wheel bugs and praying mantises are finding SLF as a food source. Fungi such as *Bueuveria* and *Batkoa* species have been found associated with SLF mortality under favorable environmental conditions and are being explored as a management technique.

The beneficial parasitoid wasp *Dryinus sinicus* is being evaluated as a promising long-term biological control agent for SLF. Native to Asia, this species has shown an ability to effectively parasitize spotted lanternfly. For the last few years, it has undergone extensive host-specificity testing to ensure it poses minimal risk to native insects and other non-target species. Following positive evaluation results, an application for its release in the United States has recently been submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture for review. If approved, this natural enemy could become an important tool in reducing spotted lanternfly populations over time, complementing existing management strategies and helping to lessen reliance on insecticidal controls.

Milkweed as a Potential Toxic Trap Plant?

After repeated public observations of SLF dying after feeding on milkweed plants, researchers at Penn State tested common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and found that indeed in their studies, 60-80% of SLF nymphs and adults died within 24 hours of feeding on milkweed. They are now looking to see which milkweed species might be the most effective, and how the tactic of milkweed plantings could be utilized by vineyard managers and possibly in landscape settings.



Common milkweed may offer SLF control, as seen by this dead adult on the plant leaf (Anne Johnson, Pennsylvania State University)