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Best Management Practices to Control Aquatic Invasives

by Madison Neher

In the US, there are an estimated 250 non-native species from other continents and 450 non-native species from North America that have spread outside their native range. Aquatic invasive species are plants, animals, and other organisms that are not native to the area and can cause harm to native aquatic species. Some of the most notable species include Asian Carp, Bighead Carp, Zebra Mussel, Quagga Mussel, Eurasian Milfoil with the list going on and on. Most invasive species are brought to Indiana from humans, from the aquarium trade, boats and ships, or even intentionally to control other non-native species. Invasives aren't just difficult to control, they are very expensive and time-consuming.

So, what are some ways that we can help stop the spread of aquatic invasives?

Know your invasives species! First, it's important to understand what species are invasive and how they spread. For a full list, check out the DNR website at the button below.

[DNR - Aquatic Invasives](#)



The pictures above show Eurasian milfoil, Asian carp, and zebra mussels which are all invasive to this area.

Clean, Drain, and Dry! For anglers and boat owners, make sure all watercrafts, trailers, motors, and gear are clean, drained, and dry every time and everywhere. Disinfect or dry boots and all other gear for at least 5 days before moving into another water body. This ensures that you won't be carrying invasive species from one waterbody from another and potentially harm ecosystems.

For aquarium enthusiasts, never dump aquarium water or release any plants or animals into a waterway! Make sure to get rid of any unwanted aquarium species in a responsible way.

Spotted Lanternfly in Indiana



Shared from the Purdue College of Agriculture [website](#).

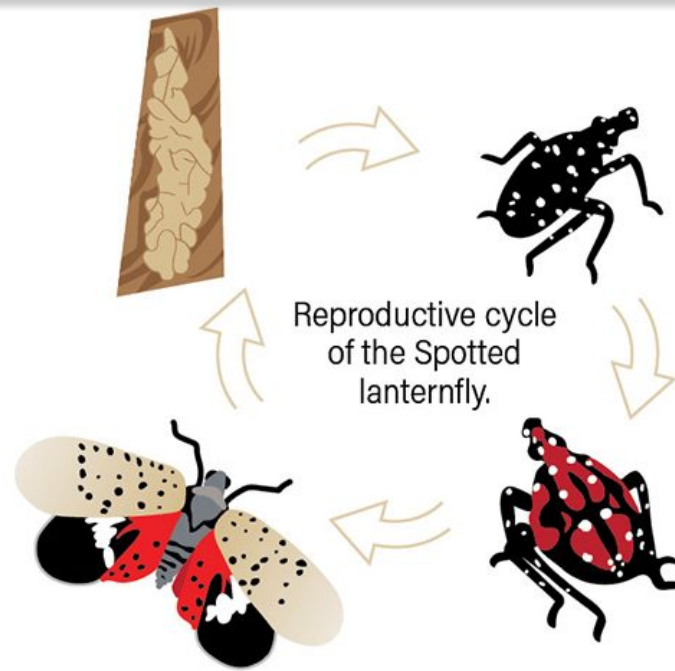
Seen in July in Indiana's Huntington County, the invasive spotted lanternfly has officially migrated to northern Indiana, just one year after its initial sighting in Switzerland County.

Cliff Sadof, professor of entomology and Purdue Extension fellow, said this migration poses a significant agricultural risk to wine grape growers and honeybee and walnut tree producers. While the spotted lanternfly feeds on over 100 different types of plants, Sadof said, the insect can reproduce only when feeding on walnut trees, grape vines or tree of heaven.

Elizabeth Long, Purdue University assistant professor of horticulture crop entomology, said one of the best defenses that wine grape growers can take against the spotted lanternfly is learning to identify the life stages of the insect and remaining vigilant inspecting for them.

"Several of the insecticides grape growers currently use for other insect pests will also knock down the spotted lanternfly, so there is no need to make additional sprays as a preventative at this time," Long said. "Looking to next season, the same strategy is needed. Keeping an eye out for spotted lanternfly hitchhikers and avoiding moving items that are likely to accidentally move insects along are key. Spotted lanternfly populations feeding on wine grape vines can severely reduce winter hardiness or kill the crop all together.

Brock Harpur, Purdue assistant professor of entomology, said bee keeping equipment can also provide the perfect spot for spotted lanternflies to lay eggs, allowing the insect to travel around the state.



Graphic of the reproductive cycle (Purdue Agricultural Communications)

“It is imperative for beekeepers to keep a careful eye out for signs of the spotted lanternfly in their area and on their equipment,” Harpur said. “Should the spotted lanternfly become established in all parts of Indiana, it is expected that honeydew, the secretion that spotted lanternfly leave behind, will become part of our late-summer honey harvest.”

Bees make good use of any honeydew they collect, Harpur said, but that isn’t desirable. If a colony does collect honeydew, a beekeeper may notice the honey has a smokey taste and smell and is less sweet than a typical honey. The honeydew tainted product has a darker brown color and a notable aftertaste.

Though the full-grown adults have beautiful coloring and patterns, spotted lanternfly eggs resemble a splash of mud, making them easy to overlook on large vehicles traveling from state to state. Homeowners should, therefore, also remain vigilant in keeping populations in check, Sadof said, as the honeydew secretions from the insect are frequently spread across homes and structures and are extremely difficult to remove when dried.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources asks all residents to search for and report spotted lanternfly sightings. Anyone spotting the insect should photograph it and send the image and location to DEPP@dnr.in.gov, or call 1-866-No-Exotic.



Remove Invasive Plants (RIP) Squad Volunteer Callout:

- 10/18-11/29 - Tuesdays 3-5 pm at Prophets Rock
- 10/20-12/1 - Thursdays 3-5 pm at Ross Hills

[Email for Questions/More Info](#)

Recap: Invasive Plant Swap Program



Beth removing burning bush from the playground at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tippecanoe County (left). Amanda picking up serviceberry replacements (right)!

Last year, TICT implemented a program for replacing callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) with native plants.

Tippecanoe County SWCD took the reins for 2022 and included burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) as an invasive that qualified for replacement. We had great turnout for the program, and hope to hold another Invasive Plant Swap next year!

- Total participants: 79

- Invasives removed: 182

- Natives planted: 170

TICT in the Community: Trail of Scarecrows



Take a stroll through the prairie at Prophetstown State Park, and see if you can spot the TICT scarecrow—now through November 6!

TICT Potluck

Sometimes it seems like all doom and gloom with our focus on invasive plants and the harm they cause. Let's remedy that with some fun! You're invited to a TICT potluck on **Wednesday, October 19** at the West Lafayette Wellness Center patio (1101 Kalberer

Potluck Sign Up



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Our mailing address is:
1812 Troxel Dr. # C3, Lafayette, IN 47909

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