



TICT OFF

Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce Newsletter
October 2021

Featured Invasive: Spotted Lanternfly

By: Dr. Elizabeth Barnes, exotic forest-pest specialist at Purdue University

Bright, flashy, and destructive: spotted lanternfly is in Indiana. This invasive insect was first detected in 2014 in Pennsylvania and since then has spread to at least 10 states bringing dead plants and sticky messes with it. This summer, a homeowner reported a sighting of a spotted lanternfly on a tree in Switzerland County (Southeastern Indiana not far from Cincinnati). Shortly after, a population was found in the nearby woodland. The Department of Natural Resources is working to get it contained and eradicated but they need help. We're asking everyone to learn the signs of spotted lanternfly and tell us if they see it.

Identification

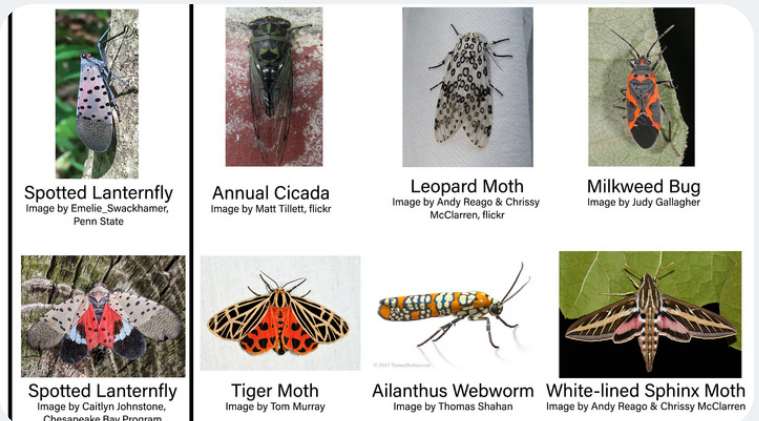
Spotted lanternfly looks very different at each stage of its life. These insects hatch in the spring as tiny black and white nymphs that are sometimes confused with ticks. When they get larger, they become mostly red with white spots. Some people think this stage looks like a ladybug with a long nose. The adults have grey-brown, spotted forewings that blend in well to tree trunks. They flash their bright red, white, and black hindwings and hop away when startled. Females that are ready to lay eggs have bright yellow abdomens. Spotted lanternfly egg masses are extremely difficult to detect. They are grey-brown, textured, and flat. People often confuse them for a smear of mud or part of a tree trunk.



Nymphs typically emerge in early spring and grow through the summer. They turn into adults in July and generally survive until the first hard freeze. Females usually begin laying their eggs in September and continue into December. The eggs overwinter and hatch the following spring.

Spotted Lanternfly Damage

The sheer number of spotted lanternfly feeding on a single tree or vine is what can cause serious damage. These insects have a straw for a mouth that they use to pierce bark and drink plant sap. Spotted lanternfly will try to eat just about anything (over 103 known host-plants) but they particularly like grapes (wild and cultivated), tree of heaven, and black walnut.



Lanternflies and their look-alikes

Grape vines are almost always killed by lanternfly feeding and those vines that survive produce fruit that is so unpalatable it can't be sold. Larger trees are rarely outright killed by spotted lanternfly feeding, but early results suggest that this damage weakens plants and makes them susceptible to other stresses like drought.

In addition to harming plants, spotted lanternfly is a general nuisance for another reason: honeydew. Despite the pleasant sounding name, honeydew is essentially sticky, sugary insect pee. Anything underneath an infested tree becomes covered in it. Spotted lanternfly pee such a high volume of honeydew that it often looks like there is a light rain in heavily infested forests. The honeydew grows sooty mold and attracts stinging insects like hornets and yellow jackets. Cars and porches under infested trees need to be repeatedly washed throughout the summer. Plants in the undergrowth like ferns and wildflowers have a hard time photosynthesizing when covered in sooty mold because it blocks the sunlight from reaching their cells. Honeydew adds another layer of environmental and economic impact to an already destructive insect.

How Spotted Lanternfly Spreads

People are responsible for much of the spread of spotted lanternfly. Despite its bright coloration, this insect easily hides in vehicles, plants, and other materials moving between states. Spotted lanternfly eggs are particularly difficult to notice. They are grey-brown, rough, and, once dry, look like a splash of mud. Closely inspecting any materials that have been in an infested area can help reduce the spread of this insect.

How to Help

There are three ways to help slow the spread of spotted lanternfly:

1. If you see it, report it! The sooner the Department of Natural Resources knows about an infestation, the sooner they can start managing it. You can report spotted lanternfly by calling (1-866-663-9684), emailing (depp@dnr.IN.gov), or using the EDDMapS app (<https://www.eddmaps.org/>).
2. Check grapes, tree of heaven, and black walnut. These are generally the first plants spotted lanternfly will attack.
3. Check any vehicle traveling through an infested area. Look in, under, and on top of the vehicle. Make sure to check in the wheel wells too since lanternfly like to hide there.

Learn more and get updates from the Department of Natural Resources:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/entomology/pests-of-concern/spotted-lanternfly/>



Two lanternflies and their egg mass

Free invasive management guidance

The Indiana Invasives Initiative offers free site visits and technical guidance to land owners throughout the state of Indiana. Regional Specialists will identify invasive species, provide information for their prevention and control, and promote the use of native plants for landscaping and restoration practices. The services include detection, inventorying, and monitoring of invasive species on both public and private lands. The regional specialist serving Tippecanoe County is Amber Slaughterbeck. Contact Amber at amber@sicim.info, and learn more at <https://www.sicim.info/assistance>.



Easy-to-spot fall invasive plant:

burning bush

Chances are you know someone with a burning bush in their yard. They love the brilliant fall color, but do they know that it is a serious threat to our forests and wildlife, as it aggressively displaces our native understory plants?



Burning bush invading a forest

Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), or "winged euonymus," is a common landscape shrub. It was originally introduced from Asia in the 1860s. Even though its ability to invade natural areas has been documented since the 1970s, many people are reluctant to remove burning bush from their yards. Some even share the misconception that since it's not moving around their yard, it isn't invasive.

IDENTIFICATION & BIOLOGY: Burning bush can grow up to 15 feet tall with football shaped leaves that are oppositely arranged, finely toothed along the leaf edge, and 1-2 inches long. The stems are a vibrant green with raised, tan or brown, corky "wings." Ripening in the fall, the fruits are brilliant red with a split, purplish husk, each about ½ inch in diameter. The husk splits to expose four red-orange seeds. Despite their bright coloring, they tend to blend in with the even more showy fall foliage. In the fall, the leaves turn crimson.

HABITAT & DISTRIBUTION: They can grow in full or partial sun, but they also thrive in forest interiors where there is less competition from other invasive shrubs. They grow on a wide range of sites, but are often found not far from a source of seed in a landscape setting.

Burning bush is primarily spread by birds dispersing their abundant and highly visible fruit. The fruit often persist into winter when they become even more visible to birds and mammals.



Burning bush seedling

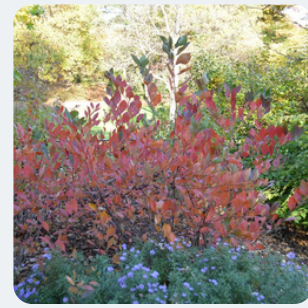
ECOLOGICAL THREAT: Burning bush replace native shrubs in some woodland habitats and alters the structure of natural plant communities. It can form dense thickets, displacing many native woody and herbaceous plant species. Additionally, burning bush is not palatable to white-tailed deer, resulting in greater browse damage to native herbaceous plants and other desirable species.

CONTROL: Mechanical - Any time of year when the ground is soft, especially after a rain, hand pull small plants by the base of the stem. Be sure to pull up the entire root system. Hang from a branch to prevent re-rooting or bag and dispose of the plants. For larger plants, use a Weed Wrench™. Continue to monitor the area every year for new seedlings. Or, cut plants back in the fall or winter, wrap a few layers of burlap or thick plastic over the stump and tie tightly with twine or rope. Check covered stumps periodically and cut back any new growth.

Chemical - Cut the plant 4 inches above the ground. Use a drip bottle to apply an 18-21% glyphosate solution to the stump within one hour of cutting. This is best done in late summer through winter when plants are

transporting resources to their root systems. Or, try a low volume foliar spray. This method is used for dense populations and best left to a contractor. In the fall, when native plants are losing their leaves, spray a 2% glyphosate solution on the entire leaf surface of the plant. In order to avoid drift to native plants, spray only on calm days. Note: Be careful not to damage or kill nearby native plants when conducting management work. When using herbicides, always follow the instructions on the label.

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES: The following native plants have great fall color in addition to being high-quality food and/or shelter for wildlife! Try red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), or fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*).



black chokeberry



fragrant sumac

Callery Pear Replacement Program

By: Amy Krzton-Presson, Wabash River Enhancement Corp

Efforts like TICT rely on partnerships to achieve great things in invasive species management. The Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District, the Wabash River Enhancement Corp, the City of Lafayette, and the City of West Lafayette worked together to provide Tippecanoe County residents an opportunity to get a free tree if they cut down an existing callery pear tree in their landscaping during the summer of 2021. Here is a summary of this program:

- Total Callery Pears Removed: 21
- Total Native Trees Planted: 19
- Native Tree Species Planted:
 - Redbud
 - Yellowwood
 - Overcup Oak
 - Black Oak
 - Tulip Poplar

before



after



Upcoming Invasive Events

- WREC South River Road invasive plant work day: Friday Oct 22 10am-1pm. Registration: http://www.wabashriver.net/volunteer_ch/
- Weed Wrangle at Tippecanoe County Amphitheater: Saturday November 20. Contact Mary Cutler for more information: 765-567-2993
- RIP Squad Volunteer workdays, for more info: Patty Jones removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com, 765-463-3050 (please leave voicemail)
 - Tuesdays Oct 19 and 26, Nov 2, 9, and 16 at Prophets Rock
 - Thursdays Oct 21 and 28, Nov 4, 11, 18 at Ross Hills

TICT on the Trail of Scarecrows

By Amy Krzton-Presson, Wabash River Enhancement Corp

TICT Education Committee member Amanda Estes designed, built, and installed a scarecrow in Prophetstown State Park's trail of Scarecrows.

This scarecrow is fighting back against spooky alien invaders: amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera mackii*). Park visitors can vote for their favorite scarecrows by making donations to the Interpretive Services fund for Education, Arts, Culture and History Programs at Prophetstown State Park. You can pick up and drop off ballots at the park's main gate, camp gate, or visitor's center. Prizes are awarded for the most votes so spread the word to vote for your favorite Scarecrows! Voting is open from October 1st to November 7th. Check out Prophetstown's website for more information: <https://events.in.gov/event/the-12th-annual-trail-of-scarecrows>



Joan Mohr Samuels "was doing it before it was cool"

By Amber Slaughterbeck, SICIM West-Central Regional Specialist

Upon learning she received the nomination for West-Central Indiana's Regional "2021 Weed Wrangler" award Joan exclaimed, "OH MY". If you have had the pleasure of meeting Joan, you know that she is one of the kindest, most genuine individuals walking amongst us. Patty Jones, a member of RIP Squad, echoed "she's a champion for native plants, animals, and all others whose quiet voices need to be heard. She speaks out and challenges anything that isn't right." Joan has been tracking and coordinating native plant lovers' efforts since the early 2000's, participating heavily in the formation of RIP Squad and now RIPIT - Remove Invasive Plants in Tippecanoe County. And if you're not receiving the "Native Roots" publication (which she compiles regularly) you need to get on Joan's email list today! On hands and knees, I've pulled Invasive Wintercreeper and English Ivy alongside her. Joan is most deserving of both this award and a great big hug as soon as possible.



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