

Berks County

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Learn to Identify and Find Spotted Lanternfly at Free Public Meetings

The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive insect that was first discovered in Berks County, PA, in September 2014. It has the potential to destroy high value crops including grapes, tree fruits and lumber. In an effort to keep it from spreading, the PA Department of Agriculture has quarantined the Berks County townships of District, Earl, Hereford, Pike, Rockland, and Washington (including the boroughs of Bally and Bechtelsville). This winter, the quarantine means that any item that could hold Spotted Lanternfly egg masses may not be moved outside the quarantined area. That includes firewood, outdoor household items or any items stored outside during the fall, building materials, and plants or plant parts.

The PA Department of Agriculture and Penn State Extension are working with the affected townships to provide training for local residents interested in finding and removing egg masses. Egg mass removal can reduce the number of Spotted Lanternflies next growing season. Spotted lanternflies have been found in wooded areas and yards especially where there are Tree-of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) trees. If you want to learn to recognize and properly remove egg masses from your property during the winter, attend one of these free public meetings that will be held at the District Township office located in Gordon Park at 202 Weil Road, Boyertown, PA 19512:

Saturday, Feb. 21, 10:00 AM - noon

Saturday March 21, 10:00 AM - noon

If you'd like to participate, please call or email the Berks County Extension office by the end of the day on Friday prior to the meeting. That way if there is bad weather and we have to cancel we can notify you. The phone number is: 610-378-1327. Or email Nancy Bosold at nfb1@psu.edu

With your help we can limit the spread of this potentially damaging insect.

For more information about Spotted Lanternfly in Berks County:

PA Department of Agriculture's website: www.pda.state.pa.us/spottedlanternfly

Penn State Extension Berks County's website: <http://extension.psu.edu/berks> or call 610-378-1327.

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