CFAES
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OHIO Woodlands, Water, & Wildlife

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Spotted Lanternfly Update

Amy Stone, Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator, OSU Extension – Lucas County

By now, we are hoping that you have at least heard of the spotted lanternfly (SLF) (*Lycorma delicatula*) and it is on your radar. Extra credit goes out to those who are actively engaged and are helping to scout and look for this non-native invasive species. If you have not looked yet, no worries, we are still seeking volunteers and hope that you will join our invasive species army looking for SLF in Ohio.

While the days are gone where you may find adult planthoppers as freezing temperatures took care of this insect's stage. Our attention should now be focusing on looking for the egg stage of the insect, and thus the focus of this article.

Before we get started with that, it is important to note that SLF has been found in Ohio and this fall, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has issued a quarantine as a means to reduce the spread of SLF in Ohio. At the time this article was written, Jefferson and Cuyahoga Counties have reproducing populations and are included in the quarantine. There have been other reports of SLF in other Ohio counties, but thus far those have been individual finds, and not reproducing populations.

Now back to the insect and what you should be looking for now.

The adult female SLF typically lays between 30 and 50 eggs and can lay one or two egg masses in her life-time. The eggs are laid in the late summer, through fall and into the early winter, depending on the weather, with the majority of egg laying occurring in October. The egg masses survive the winter, and nymphs will hatch from those egg masses the following spring. These masses can be laid on any flat surface.

Adult spotted lanternfly

Individual eggs are laid in rows, or described as chains by some. The eggs are then covered with a waxy coating. SLF egg masses are typically about 1.5 inches long. They are usually brown to grey in color, but there can be a lot of variation.

The rows of the eggs can vary in length, with some of the rows being longer than others even in the same egg mass. Once the female lays the eggs in that mass, she covers them with a substance that is believed to help them survive the cold and protect them from predation.

The Ohio State University
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

The substance the covers the eggs when first deposited, is white to gray in color and appears very glossy. Shortly afterwards, the covering becomes duller and dries to a darker grey to brown color. It has been observed that some eggs don't get covered, either the entire mass or a portion of the eggs. It is thought that the female was disturbed at some point and was not able to finish the job. Researchers have shown that egg masses that are lacking this covering, usually have a lower hatch rate, although some of the eggs will definitely hatch.

As the seasons progress, and winter turns to spring, the covering fades over time. The covering that was once smooth and glossy, becomes aged and cracked. To me, it has a similar appearance to dried mud.

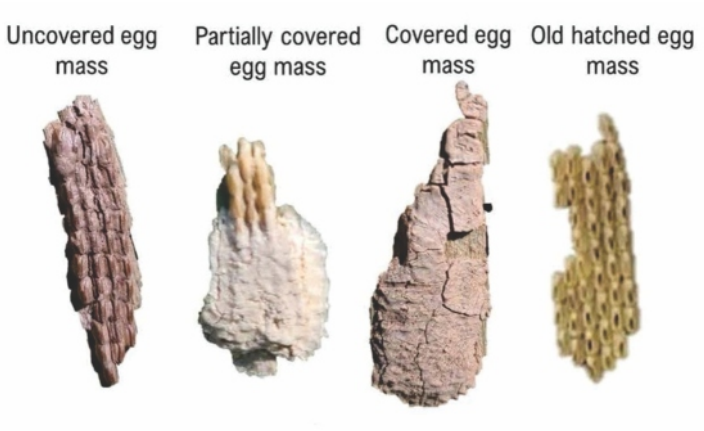
As the nymphs begin to hatch in the spring, and into the summer, the covering is disturbed, making it disappear altogether. An added fun fact; each egg mass is equipped with a top "hatch door" that nymphs use to escape out of in the spring as described by Heather Leach, formally of Penn State University Extension. These emergence holes are perfectly oval at the top of each egg. If these are present, the egg mass is old and nymphs have already hatched from it.

Where Do I Look For Egg Masses?

SLF egg masses can be found on a variety of flat surfaces, but most commonly on trees next to their feeding sites. Researchers have shared that it is important to remember that you will not be able to reach, and likely see, all of the egg masses deposited on trees or other surfaces.

SLF prefer to lay egg masses in protected areas such as the undersides of tree limbs, picnic tables, and other outdoor surfaces that are horizontal or angled toward the ground. Currently, there is ongoing research to determine which substrates they prefer to lay on the most. More info to come!

It is important to note that there could be other egg masses that you could confuse for SLF egg masses, especially if you don't have a comparison to look at while also looking at the actual suspected egg mass. We have found this resource from Virginia Tech illustrating some of those look-alikes. There is one for adults, nymphs and egg masses. You can find those resources online at: vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/spotted-lanternfly-look-a-likes.pdf



Variations in spotted lanternfly egg masses including color (yellow, gray, brown) and covering. Photo Heather Leach

Reporting Egg Masses

If you find an egg mass that you suspect is from the SLF, we encourage you to take a photo and record the location, including an address and description of the site. You can report your observations in a variety of ways, but what is imperative is that you report it.

You can report by using a smartphone app called the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN). You can also connect directly with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) by calling (614-728-6400), emailing (plantpest@agri.ohio.gov) or using their online reporting form found at:

agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/invasive-pests/slf

Now get outdoors and get looking! If you see anything that you suspect is SLF, always report what you have observed and include photos or an actual specimen. Thank you all for help and being another set of eyes in the field.

OSU Extension has a SLF website that you can check out to stay up to date: u.osu.edu/spottedlanternfly/

Ohio Landowner/Hunter Access Partnership (OLHAP)

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife has launched a new incentive program that provides a path for Ohio hunters to access participating landowner properties during the hunting season. Enrollment for the Ohio Landowner and Hunter Access Partnership program is underway now. This program is funded in part by the federal Farm Bill under

their Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP). This bill provides funding to state and tribal agencies through a competitive grant process to implement programs encouraging hunting access on private properties. As part of the 2018 Farm Bill, Ohio was awarded $1,831,500 to implement the new OLHAP program. The OLHAP program uses part of those funds to pay landowners for hunters to access their property. Participating landowners receive annual payment rates ranging from $2.00 to $30.00 per acre depending on the characteristics of the property enrolled. Enrollment contracts are for 2-3 years, with the possibility of extension.

If you are a landowner interested in finding out more about the program or wishing to enroll your property, please call or email the appropriate district contact.

District 1
Emilee Hardesty
614-314-1315
emilee.hardesty@dnr.ohio.gov

District 2
Justin Harrington
419-429-8361
justin.harrington@dnr.ohio.gov

District 3
Geoff Westerfield
330-245-3027
geoffrey.westerfield@dnr.ohio.gov

District 4
Chris Smith
740-589-9951
chris.smith@dnr.ohio.gov

District 5
Caleb Shields
937-347-0926
caleb.shields@dnr.ohio.gov

Any hunter wishing to access an OLHAP property must first obtain a **free daily OLHAP Permit and have a valid customer ID.** An OLHAP Permit **does not** authorize hunting deer with a firearm during any of Ohio's deer-gun seasons (archery deer hunting during Ohio's deer-gun seasons is permitted).

More information for both landowners and hunters can be found on the Ohio Landowner/Hunter Access Partnership Program page at: wildohio.gov.

Winter Bird Feeding is a Go!

Marne Titchenell, Extension Specialist – Wildlife, School of Environment and Natural Resources

This past summer, Ohioans were encouraged to take down feeders and bird baths to protect birds from a mysterious illness. Many birds were reported dead or sick with swollen, crusty, cloudy eyes. This illness was not isolated to Ohio as biologists in nearby states also received reports of infected birds. Species impacted included blue jays, common grackles, house sparrow, European starlings, and American robins, particularly immature or fledgling birds (young birds that have recently left the nest).

To date, there is still no diagnosis on the cause of the illness, however research is ongoing at multiple labs. Recently, the ODNR, Ohio Division of Wildlife lifted the recommendation to stop feeding birds. Why? Reports of sick or dead birds affected by the illness have slowed considerably in Ohio. Additionally, the majority of the birds reported with the illness were immature or fledgling

birds and the breeding season is now over.

Yet, as winter approaches and plans are made to stock feeders for overwintering birds, there are still some important recommendations to keep in mind.

1) Many other songbird diseases can be passed through feeding. It is important to keep feeders clean: use a 10% bleach solution (1 part bleach, 9 parts water), rinse, and let dry at least once a week.

2) Take a break (7-10 days) from feeding if you see sick or dead birds. This prevents birds from congregating and passing transmissible diseases.

3) Symptoms of other diseases such as house finch eye disease and salmonellosis include reddish or crusty eyes, and neurological conditions such as poor balance and coordination. Despite this, The Ohio Division of Wildlife would still like reports of dead birds to be reported.

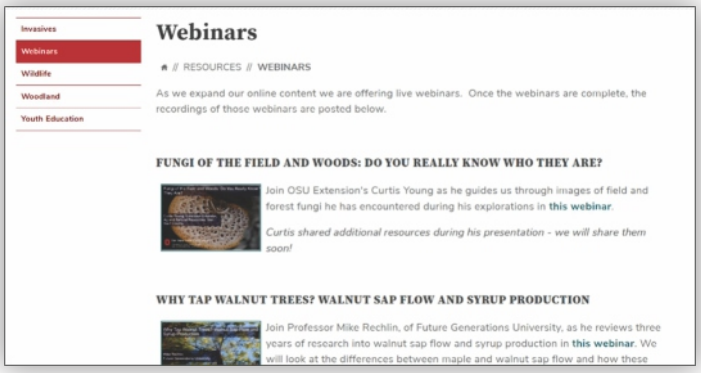
4) If you find or observe a sick bird, **please contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.**

To report sick or dead birds, find a list of Ohio wildlife rehabilitators, or find more information on bird diseases, visit the Ohio Division of Wildlife's website at: wildohio.gov.

Finally, remember that bird feeders are a supplementary food source. Incorporating bird-friendly plants into backyards and properties provides birds with natural food sources such as seeds, nuts, and berries. These same plants will also attract insects, another important food source for many overwintering and breeding birds. Some plants provide seeds into the fall and winter such as coneflowers, asters, native thistles and goldenrods, and mast producing trees like oaks, hickory, hazelnut, and birch. Other plants provide berries that hang on to the branches well into winter such as holly, sumac, crabapple, and hawthorn. Happy Birding!

Welcome to 2022!

We have been a little absent in the newsletter arena of late. In truth, the Ohio Woodland Stewards program has been operating a bit differently over the past few years, but hopefully, with this newsletter and the upcoming 2022 events schedule, we are on our way back to a new normal. Some of the changes we made, such as our Escape to the Forest webinar series, was a change that will be staying; we plan to offer webinars into the future. We want to give special thanks to so many of you that



joined in on the webinars we've offered throughout the last 18 plus months. If you missed out on the webinars, they have been recorded and posted on the Woodland Stewards website under Resources: woodlandstewards.osu.edu/resources/webinars.

We are working on our 2022 programming schedule, and hope it will contain both in-person and online opportunities. As we navigate our return to in-person programming keep checking the website for updates. If you are not currently on our email list serve and would like to be, email ohiowoods@osu.edu and ask to be added.

You will also see more programming on maple syrup production. There is a new sugarbush located on the Ohio State Mansfield campus that contains 1100 taps on tubing. While we produce syrup for sale (woodlandstewards.osu.edu/shop), the funds and our focus is maple research, outreach/demonstrations for woodland owners, and funding student interns to help with the process. Hopefully this new addition to the program peaks your interest in becoming a producer (small or large) and exploring a new income opportunity

for your woodland. Maple camp and an introductory class on making maple syrup are a couple of items you will see on the schedule for 2022. Keep up to date with Ohio State Maple at: u.osu.edu/ohiomaple/

In the fall of 2021, we offered a series of in-person classes at Warren Co. Fairgrounds with the help and support of Warren County Extension. We are excited to continue this partnership into 2022, especially as it allows us to offer more programming in southwest Ohio, which a good number of you have been requesting for years. The OSU Mansfield campus will continue to be our northern hub for programming. The campus is surrounded by 600 acres of woodlands and over the years we have implemented several forest management and habitat creation demos (crop tree management, grapevine management, brush piles, pollinator plots) that make teaching our classes ideal.

Remember to check out the website for upcoming in-person classes and online webinars. Is there a topic for a webinar that you would like us to explore? Send your topic to either myself (smith.81@osu.edu) or Marne (titchenell.4@osu.edu) to be added to the list.

Have a great rest of the year and we hope to see you in 2022!

Kathy Smith and Marne Titchenell

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Check Us Out On The Web!
Look for newsletter articles, links to fact sheets and other publications by browsing our site. Registration for upcoming Woodland Stewards classes may also be done electronically.
Website: woodlandstewards.osu.edu

Kathy L. Smith
Program Director - Forestry
Ohio Woodland Stewards Program Coordinator

Contact Us!
For program information contact Mary Slyby at 614-688-3421 by email:
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