

URGENT: NEW Guidelines for Pennsylvania Beekeepers In or Entering Spotted Lanternfly Quarantined Areas

Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, is an invasive insect (a planthopper) which was discovered in Berks County, PA. It is native to China, India, and Vietnam. This insect has the potential to greatly impact many plants and businesses, including the grape, hops and logging industries. While it prefers Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*, it has been found feeding on over 70 host plants including apples, peaches, cucumbers, and blueberries.

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) pierce the stems, trunks, and vines to feed on the plants' phloem. Trees will develop weeping wounds which leave a grey or black trail along the trunk. Other insects come to feed at these wounds. Black sooty mold and honeydew also occur, creating problems and potentially destroying the crop and killing the plant. In late fall, adults lay egg masses on host trees and nearby smooth surfaces including beehives, cinder blocks, wooden stands, stone, outdoor furniture, vehicles, trailers, and structures. Additional information and pictures may be found at www.agriculture.pa.gov (click on "Spotted Lanternfly" found under "Hot Topics").

Currently 13 PA counties have SLF quarantines in place which impact the movement of certain items. These counties are: Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia and Schuylkill.

This quarantine is necessary because SLF can easily hide and/or "hitchhike" on items stored outside, including vehicles and trailers. The quarantine will be expanded to new areas as SLF specimens are detected and confirmed. A complete and up-to-date list and additional information can be found at www.agriculture.pa.gov (click on "Spotted Lanternfly" found under "Hot Topics", and then in the blue box labeled "Quarantine"). Information about obtaining the free permit, and when a beekeeper will need it, follows.

Beekeepers do NOT want to be responsible for helping this pest spread!

Information for beekeepers moving within Pennsylvania:

For the purposes of the SLF permit, a commercial beekeeper is any beekeeper who sells, trades, makes money on their bees or related products, and/or has the bee business listed on their taxes. Information concerning commercial beekeepers will follow.

Information concerning noncommercial/backyard beekeepers is also included.

Commercial beekeepers moving honey bees and/or equipment out of quarantined counties ANYWHERE IN PENNSYLVANIA, FOR ANY REASON, (moving to a new yard, sale, trade, pollination, overwintering, etc.) MUST have a permit.

Commercial beekeepers moving honey bees and/or equipment from a nonquarantined area in PA to a quarantined area, and then back into the nonquarantined area in PA, must also have a permit (sales, pollination, moving to a new yard, overwintering, etc.).

Commercial beekeepers moving honey bees and/or equipment from one quarantined area in PA to another quarantined area in PA must also have a permit (sales, pollination, moving to a new yard, overwintering, etc.). This is because some areas of a quarantined county may not have SLF yet.

The permit is easy to obtain and is available at NO COST. The State Apiarist and Regional Supervisors will be offering the necessary training and testing. They will also be able to issue the permit. Please remember that this is a very new permit and not all the details may be in place at each regional office. Currently, to obtain a free permit, beekeeping organizations or commercial beekeepers should call or email Karen Roccasecca, State Apiarist, at 717-346-9567 or kroccasecc@pa.gov. She will work to schedule a training and testing session. Commercial beekeepers may also be able to attend a session scheduled with their Regional PA Department of Agriculture Office as the Regional Supervisors present this information to local businesses. The training lasts approximately 2 hours and features a powerpoint presentation and discussion with questions and answers. A 20-question paper test follows. If the applicant passes the test, an orange tag, which is hung on the rear-view mirror holder of their vehicle, is issued, as well as a small training certificate card. One hang tag is issued for each vehicle used in the commercial bee business. **After passing the test, and following the guidelines, the commercial beekeeper is then free to move his or her hives around PA.** If the commercial beekeeper has paid or unpaid helpers and/or employees, it is his or her responsibility to train them about SLF and what to look for to avoid transporting this insect.

To contact a regional PA Department of Agriculture office, visit <http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/regional-offices/Pages/default.aspx> and click on the region which covers your county or is closest to your residence. Beekeeping organizations are encouraged to arrange for a larger number of beekeepers to receive training and testing for the permit. There are plans to have the educational training powerpoint and the 20-question exam for the permit available online. When this happens, an updated guide will be issued.

Noncommercial/backyard beekeepers are strongly encouraged to attend the educational portion of the SLF presentation, but they do NOT need to take the test and apply for the permit (hang tag and small training certificate card). For ALL residents living in the quarantined areas, there is a checklist available and they must follow the checklist – searching for, removing and destroying any living life stages of the SLF as directed. This checklist is a legal document which residents should print, complete, and sign. The checklist should be taken along when moving certain item(s).

Information for beekeepers moving into or out of Pennsylvania:

There is a change to the Export Permit/Certificate of Inspection a beekeeper requests when he or she wishes to move honey bees, colonies, nucleus colonies, and/or equipment out of state. The State Apiarist and/or State Apiary Inspectors will still come and inspect 10-15% of the bees requesting to leave the state. If the honey bees and/or equipment are located in the quarantine area, the outside of each hive, colony, and nuc, the pallets/stands/cinderblocks that the hives are resting on, and the outside surfaces of stored equipment will also be inspected. There is no charge for this inspection. *The SLF inspection will be*

listed on the issued Certificate of Inspection. Other states will be checking to see if this inspection was done. Without this inspection, other states could refuse entry.

Beekeepers who only move bees and/or equipment out of state are strongly encouraged to receive the training, take the test, and obtain the orange hang-tag permit so they are aware of what to look for and the reasons for concern about SLF.

Beekeepers who have moved into a quarantined area of PA from another state and are moving out of PA, **MUST** contact the State Apiarist to arrange for an inspection before leaving PA.

If the bees and/or equipment are coming anywhere into PA from a state with SLF, a Certificate of Inspection (Import Permit) indicating that they were recently inspected for SLF must be sent to the PA State Apiarist prior to arrival into PA. SLF has been confirmed in Virginia, Delaware, and New York.

This information will be revised and updated as necessary.

The life stages for Spotted Lanternfly change significantly over a year, so use the following guidelines to focus your inspections:

