



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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[www.vdacs.virginia.gov](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov)

May 25, 2018

Dear Property Owner/Resident:

The Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (VDACS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are planning to conduct detection survey work and pesticide treatments in your area to detect and suppress the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*. SLF is an insect pest that was discovered in Frederick County in January 2018; this was just the second known detection of SLF in the U.S. The first occurrence of SLF in the U.S. occurred in Pennsylvania in 2014. SLF is a native insect of Southeast Asia and prefers feeding on *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven), but will also feed on grapes, peaches, apples and hops. It also has the potential to be a serious nuisance pest to homeowners when it is present in high numbers. While SLF will feed on a variety of plants, researchers believe it not only prefers *Ailanthus* but may require feeding on this tree in order to successfully reproduce.

**The purpose of this letter is to notify you that VDACS and USDA plan to conduct detection surveys and SLF treatments in your area and to invite you to attend an open-house public information meeting. Records at the Tax Assessors office indicate that all or part of your property is located within the proposed treatment area. Tree banding detection survey (conducted by VDACS employees) involves wrapping trees with a sticky band to trap the SLF. This will be used to determine the presence of SLF. The treatment program (USDA) involves pesticide (insecticide or herbicide) application to *Ailanthus* (only *Ailanthus* will be treated). Trees will be treated with an insecticide to kill SLF or trees may receive an herbicide treatment to kill *Ailanthus*. (Killing *Ailanthus* will remove the ability for the SLF to reproduce). There are no fees for tree banding or pesticide treatments.**

A contractor hired by USDA will perform the pesticide applications. This contractor will be a fully insured and properly licensed pesticide applicator. The USDA contractor will contact property owners to acquire written permission prior to treatments.

The contractor will conduct the following:

- Identify *Ailanthus* trees and treat trunks with an approved insecticide, Transtect 70WSP, active ingredient, dinotefuran.

- Treat *Ailanthus* trees (that are not treated with insecticide) with an herbicide, Garlon 3A (or equivalent), active ingredient, triclopyr. Trees six inches or less in diameter at breast height will be targeted for herbicide treatment.

Virginia's Tree and Crop Pest Law (Va Code, Section 3.2-702) provides authority to VDACS to conduct eradication or suppression measures when a new or highly injurious plant pest exists in Virginia. No fees will be charged for these treatments and participation is voluntary. It should be noted that while participation is voluntary, the success of the survey detection program and treatment program is dependent on participation by all landowners. VDACS is encouraging full participation in the area so that all properties where SLF is found can be treated. If a tenant occupies your property, please provide them with a copy of this letter.

**You are invited to attend an open-house public information meeting to answer questions and address concerns about the proposed treatments.**

**Thursday, June 14, 2018**

**6pm to 7:30pm**

**Frederick County Government Building, Board Room**

**107 North Kent St., Winchester, Virginia**

Maps and SLF literature will be available at the meeting and can also be found on the VDACS website at <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services.shtml#lanternfly>.

If you have questions about the treatment, please contact me at 804-786-3515 or email [Debra.Martin@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:Debra.Martin@vdacs.virginia.gov) or [Tina.MacIntyre@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:Tina.MacIntyre@vdacs.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,



Debra Martin

Program Manager, VDACS Office of Plant Industry Services

Enclosures: Information regarding the Spotted Lanternfly  
Map of the proposed treatment area