



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Office of Plant Industry Services

PO Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23218

Phone: 804/786-3515 • Fax: 804/371-7793 • Hearing Impaired: 800/828-1120

www.vdacs.virginia.gov

Joseph W. Guthrie
Commissioner

May 26, 2022

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the regulated area of Virginia's *Regulations for Enforcement of the Virginia Tree and Crop Pests Law - Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine* (Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine) will be expanded to include the following cities and counties; Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Manassas, Staunton, Waynesboro, Albemarle, Augusta, Carroll, Page, Prince William, Rockingham, Rockbridge, Shenandoah, and Wythe.

The expansion of the Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine will take place in early-July 2022 and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is providing this advance notification so that those impacted by the expansion will be able to meet the permitting and shipping requirements of the quarantine.

The Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine requires a permit to ensure that businesses are taking steps to guarantee regulated articles are free from spotted lanternfly. To obtain a spotted lanternfly permit, completion of an online training course is required and businesses must then apply for the permit with VDACS. Information on where to take the training, how to obtain a permit, and additional permitting steps can be found at the following webpage: <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-spotted-lanternfly.shtml>.

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive insect pest that was discovered in Frederick County in January 2018 and at that time, it was just the second known detection of the spotted lanternfly in the U.S. The first occurrence of spotted lanternfly in the U.S. occurred in Pennsylvania in 2014. SLF is a native insect of Asia and prefers feeding on Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), but will also feed on grapes, peaches, apples, maples, walnuts, hops, cucumbers, and basil. The spotted lanternfly also has the potential to be a serious nuisance pest to homeowners when it is present in high numbers.

The Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine currently includes the city of Winchester and the counties of Clarke, Warren, and Frederick. Together, pesticide treatments and the Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine have slowed the spread of this invasive pest, however surveys conducted by VDACS indicate that spotted lanternfly populations have now become established in cities and counties listed above. Including these cities and counties in the regulated area of the Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine is necessary to reduce further artificial spread of this insect pest to un-infested areas of the Commonwealth. (Artificial spread is the movement of infested articles by individuals).

Spotted lanternfly has the potential to spread to un-infested areas, either through natural means or through artificial spread. Under provisions of the quarantine, regulated articles are prohibited from moving out of the quarantined area unless in accordance with requirements of a Spotted Lanternfly Permit.

Regulated articles include, but are not limited to:

- Any life stage of the Spotted Lanternfly;
- Live or dead trees; nursery stock; green lumber; firewood; logs; perennial plants; garden plants or produce; stumps; branches; mulch; or composted or uncomposted chips, bark, or yard waste;
- Outdoor industrial or construction materials or equipment; concrete barriers or structures; stone, quarry material, ornamental stone, or concrete; or construction, landscaping, or remodeling waste;
- Shipping containers, such as wood crates or boxes;
- Outdoor household articles, including recreational vehicles; lawn tractors or mowers; grills; grill or furniture covers; tarps; mobile homes; tile; stone; deck boards; or
- Any equipment, trucks, or vehicles not stored indoors; any means of conveyance utilized for movement of an article; any vehicle; or any trailer, wagon.

Once the quarantine has been expanded, businesses located in the cities and counties listed above, and also those located in the existing quarantine covering the City of Winchester and the Counties of Clarke, Warren and Frederick, that are shipping these regulated articles to locations outside of the quarantined area must follow requirements of the Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine.

Please contact our office at SpottedLanternfly@vdacs.virginia.gov or (804) 786-3515, or visit <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-spotted-lanternfly.shtml> for more information regarding the Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine and how to obtain a spotted lanternfly permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Gianino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Gianino
Program Manager, Office of Plant Industry Services

Enclosures: Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Map