



NURSERY NEWS

New Pest Alert: Spotted Lanternfly

A new invasive pest has made its home in the U.S. Native to China, India and Vietnam, the spotted lanternfly (SLF) was first found in Pennsylvania in 2014. SLF cannot travel very far on its own, but the adult female will lay eggs on any smooth surface and is easily transported by humans moving infested material or items containing egg masses. While it appears SLF's primary host is tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), SLF has been detected on many hosts, including apples, plums, cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, almonds, pines, oaks, willow, maple, sycamore, walnut, poplar, and grapes.

Both immatures and adults (pictured) are responsible for feeding injury. They feed by sucking the sap from the plant's stems and leaves. SLF produce very large amounts of honeydew (excrement) and this can promote sooty mold growth and attract other insects. Adults are approximately 1 inch long by ½ inch wide and are very colorful.

After the eggs hatch in spring, nymphs will feed on host plants and will become adults in late July. Adults will feed most heavily on tree of heaven and grapevines. SLF gather in very large groups. Pennsylvania State University's website has some incredible short videos of the intensity



Spotted lanternfly photos courtesy of Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. SLF adult (top) and nymph (bottom)



of SLF in groups as well as the large amount of honeydew it produces. (<http://ento.psu.edu/extension/fruit/pest-alert-spotted-lanternfly>)

SLF is currently found in 13 Pennsylvania counties and recently was found in New York and Delaware. USDA is currently exploring options to deal with SLF.

Upcoming Events

- January 28-30: NDNGLA/NDUCFA Annual Convention, Fargo
- February 2-3: Local Foods/Grape Growers Convention, Minot
- March 10: Williston Horticulture Day, Extension Center
- April 14: Grand Forks Gardening Saturday, Alerus Center
- April 20-21: Dakota Garden Expo, Bismarck Event Center
- July 13-14: Master Gardener's Conference,
- September 6: NDSU Yard and Garden Day, Fargo
- Fall TBA: NDSU Horticultural Research Farm Tour, Absaraka

NDSU Introduces a New Japanese Tree Lilac Cultivar



NDSU Woody Plant Improvement program has introduced a new cultivar of Japanese tree lilac. Summer Aspire™ Japanese Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata* 'SumDak') is a tall, upright Japanese tree lilac growing in a non-typical form for the species. The stiffly ascending branches above a substantial trunk combine to create a tree lilac much narrower in form and greater in height than cultivars or seedling-grown plants generally found in the landscape. Large, creamy white flower panicles in late June, good foliage quality, and prominent bark lenticels add to its ornamental features.

Summer Aspire™ grows to 30-35 feet tall by 14-16 feet wide. It is recommended for hardiness zones 3-6. The size makes it a great choice for boulevard and urban plantings. Nursery wholesalers are interested in Summer Aspire™ so hopefully it will be available in the trade in the near future.

Above: Summer Aspire™ Japanese Tree Lilac;
Below: Winter form; Below Right: In bloom. Photos
courtesy of G. Morgenson, NDSU Woody Plants Program



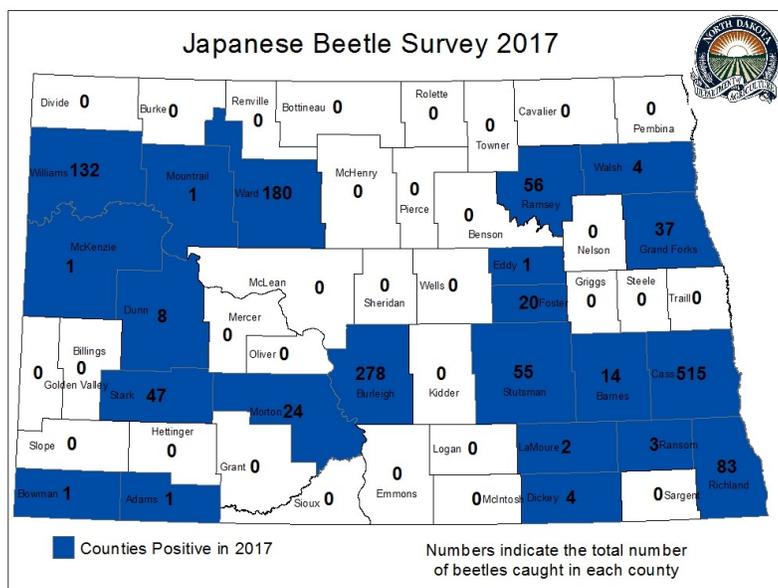
Japanese Beetle Survey Update

Once again, NDDA placed Japanese beetle (JB) traps across the state. Traps were placed beginning in May and most traps were placed by June 1, 2017. Additional traps were placed in June-July after the discovery of live Japanese beetle larva in nursery stock containers shipped from a Twins Cities-based supplier. The traps were collected starting in late September with the majority removed by September 30. All traps were removed by October 15, 2017. A total of 1,203 traps were placed across the state. The map below shows the number of beetles caught in each county. Positive counties are highlighted in blue.

As mentioned above, many additional traps were placed around the state in response to the discovery of Japanese beetle larva in container nursery stock in late June. NDDA nursery inspectors were alerted by a neighboring state that larva was found in container stock from a nursery supplier in Minnesota. Upon further inspection, NDDA staff also found larva and pupating beetles in nursery containers. Potentially infested stock was shipped to nearly 80 nurseries and landscapers in North Dakota from March through June. NDDA worked with the supplier to treat and/or remove infested nursery stock that remained at the nurseries.

NDDA staff placed traps at all the nurseries, hoping to catch as many remaining beetles as possible. NDDA will continue to monitor JB populations near these nurseries.

After all traps were removed, the data was collected from all trappers. In all traps, 1,467 beetles were caught across the state, 1,181 in nurseries. Approximately 80% of the beetles caught statewide were at these nurseries. Twenty-two counties had positive traps. These were Adams (1 positive trap, 1 adult beetle), Barnes (6, 14); Bowman (1, 1); Burleigh (32, 278); Cass (51, 515); Dickey (3, 4); Dunn (1, 8); Eddy (1, 1); Foster (5, 20); Grand Forks (13, 37); LaMoure (2,2); McKenzie (1, 1); Morton (10, 24); Mountrail (1, 1); Ramsey (4, 56); Ransom (3, 3); Richland (14, 83); Stark (7, 47); Stutsman (7, 55); Walsh (1, 4); Ward (27, 180); and Williams (5, 132). Two previously positive counties were negative in 2017 (McLean and Rolette). Trapping is expected to continue in 2018.



Nursery Program by the Numbers

In 2017, 274 nursery licenses were issued, the same number as 2016. This number includes 34 grower locations covering 1,200 acres of field-grown nursery stock. NDDA nursery staff inspected 126 of these nurseries during the season. All growers were inspected and certified as per North Dakota Century Code.

Emerald Ash Borer Update

USDA placed over 700 traps across North Dakota in 2017, and several city foresters across the state placed another 100 traps. Once again, no emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found in North Dakota. USDA has re-tooled the 2018 trapping survey to only include areas within 100 miles of a quarantined location. NDDA will be on our own for the 2018 trapping season and is currently working on a trapping plan to be sure high-risk sites are surveyed. A new lure will also be tested in the 2018 traps.

On December 7, 2017, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced that EAB was found in Winnipeg, Manitoba for the first time. This is a significant jump from the previous farthest west positive location in Canada, Thunder Bay, Ontario. The



Emerald ash borer adult. Photo by J. Knott, Arthur Companies.

Winnipeg find is significant as it is now the nearest positive location to North Dakota's border, only about 60 miles. CFIA is working to determine how this infestation happened and how long the insect has been in Winnipeg. In the U.S., EAB is now found in 31 states. North Dakota has more than 92 million ash trees based on current tree inventories. A survey of 89 cities reports that on average 48% of city-owned trees are ash.

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Tree Disease Book Available



The Great Plains Tree Pest Council has recently updated their Diseases of Trees in the Great Plains technical handbook. With funding from the United States Forest Service, this book has been made available free of charge to participating states while supplies last. The guide contains information about the hosts, distribution, symptoms and signs, disease cycles, and management strategies for 84 hardwood and 32 conifer diseases. If you or your nursery is interested in a copy, you may contact the North Dakota Forest Service Forest Health Specialist Lezlee Johnson at 701-231-5138 or Lezlee.johnson@ndsu.edu. The Great Plains Tree Pest Council is an organization of tree professionals from several Great Plains state and federal agencies and research institutions dedicated to the health of forest resources. The Council is also reviewing the need for an insect pest guide in the future.

