

The Grapevine

November 2020

The newsletter for Yamhill County Master Gardeners



Oregon State University
Extension Service
Yamhill County

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY!

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- **OMGA "Gardeners' Pen" newsletter editor**

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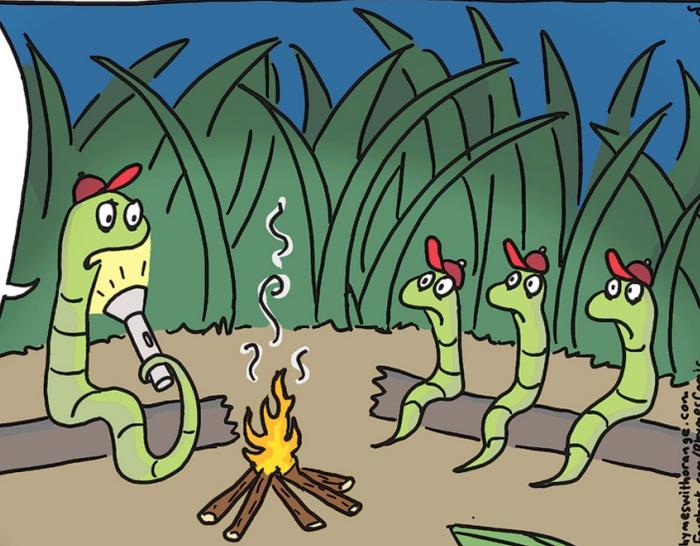
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HE WAS PEACEFULLY MUNCHING AWAY, WHEN SUDDENLY, A WOODEN STAKE TORE THROUGH THE FLESH OF THE APPLE! HE MADE FOR THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! NO ONE COULD HEAR HIS SCREAMS BEHIND THE HARDENING WALL OF THE CANDY SHELL...



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PESKY PROFILES

By Heather Stoven

False Cinch Bugs (*Nysius Raphanus*)

This year appears to be particularly active for false cinch bugs (*Nysius raphanus*): we have had numerous submissions to the desk for these *Hemipterans* (true bugs) this fall.



They are quite tiny at 1/8" to 1/6" long and are grey to brown in color. As with other related true bugs they have an "X" on their back which is formed from the folding of the

wings. These insects have been found migrating from weedy areas or agricultural fields (especially radish).

False cinch bugs are a nuisance pest around homes as they move in large numbers and cover surfaces or enter homes as they look for new feeding areas. If numbers are high enough they can cause damage to gardens and young plants, but small populations are usually not problematic.

As with other nuisance pests in the home, make sure potential entry points around windows and doors are well-sealed.



For more information see below:

<http://Cinch bugs>



Want the biggest carrot? Just remember that the darker the greens and the thicker the stem, the bigger the root will be. With beets, radishes or turnips, the greens with the thickest stems will point the way to the biggest roots.

Heather's Highlights

Hello Master Gardeners!

I hope you are all doing well! I am very excited that we are on the cusp of Master Gardener appreciation week and the Yamhill County awards program. By the time this article is out, the statewide awards week with movies and events will be over, BUT we will still have our

awards ceremony ahead. Monday evening at 6pm on the eve of Election Day we will gather on Zoom to celebrate our year.

2020 has definitely had its challenges, but I have appreciated all the adjustments that have been made to continue to work together and keep moving forward.

Our awards ceremony on Monday will highlight some of these activities and the Master Gardeners who have been making these projects great. Also, during the evening, we will announce the new YCMGA board for 2021. Lastly, our evening will include some Master Gardener Jeopardy, which should be lots of fun. Sharpen up your trivia skills and I hope to see you all on the second to celebrate!



WHEN SHOULD YOU HARVEST SQUASH?

You don't have to worry about these vegetables deteriorating before harvest time. The seeds inside them won't grow large enough to trigger the plant's stop-production mechanism until there's plenty of fruit already on the vines. Wait until all the vines die or until right before the first frost to harvest your winter squash and pumpkins. If you plan to store winter squash and pumpkins through the winter, don't let them get touched by frost or they'll rot.

The signs of ripeness are simple. If your thumbnail can't penetrate the vegetable skin, it's fully mature, long-lasting and a good keeper in storage. However, before you stick your nail into a squash, first check the vegetable for a deepening of its skin color. If you test one and your thumbnail breaks the skin, use it first because it won't store very long.

Most of the winter squashes or pumpkins on each plant should be ripe at about the same time.

Harvest those you intend to store on a sunny day, after a few days of dry weather if possible.

Cut the vegetables off the vines leaving some stem on each. Roll them over and leave them outside for a few hours until the dirt and earthworms on the undersides dry out and drop off. Be careful not to bruise vegetables you want to store -- they won't keep well, and they may spread fungus or rot to other vegetables. Don't carry these vegetables by the stems; the stems won't support the weight.

*From the National Gardening Association
"Ripening Vine Crops," 10/20*



arachnophobic entomologists

An article in [American Entomologist](#) features the results of a survey involving 41 arachnophobic entomologists who were asked questions about their fear of spiders. Although most entomologists had low scores (indicating mild disgust or mild fear), they still claimed to react differently to spiders than to insects. On the other end of the spectrum, some respondents scored in the clinically arachnophobic range and react to spiders in an almost debilitating manner.

The fear of spiders found in some entomologists may have roots in negative events that happened in childhood, giving us insight on how to lessen this fear in future generations. If parents have a genuine interest in the natural world, including spiders, and they share this positive interest with their children, it could reduce the incidence of arachnophobia in the long run.



From Terry Hart



Extreme Topiary

The Invasives

Spotted Lanternfly *Lycorma delicatula*

Oregon nursery finds spotted lanternfly, first ever reported in Oregon

Last week a nursery in the Corvallis area found a dead female lanternfly specimen (*Lycorma delicatula*) in a shipment of planters and ceramic pots sent to Oregon from Pennsylvania. (Pennsylvania was the original site of infestation in the U.S., and is now almost completely infested by the SLF).

This insect poses a serious threat to tree fruit and grape production, so could

become a serious pest here in the Pacific Northwest. It also prefers a broad range of more than 70 plant species including apples, cherry, chestnut, hops, maple, peaches, pear, pine, plum, poplar, oak, rose and walnut. Its

favorite plant is the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). In fact, one of the first measures to control the insect is the removal and destruction of all *Ailanthus* trees. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture recommends removing even the root system, or poisoning the stump to prevent regrowth.

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) was first found in North America in 2014, in Pennsylvania. A native of Asia, it is believed to have arrived on shipments of stoneware from China. Since then, SLF has been detected in 11 eastern states (Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West

Virginia). California has also found dead specimens in shipments.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is not offering control suggestions at this time due to the intention to prevent the pest from establishing in Oregon.

The Spotted Lanternfly causes serious damage in trees including oozing sap, wilting, leaf curling, and tree dieback. In addition to tree damage, when spotted lanternflies feed, they excrete a sugary substance, called honeydew, that encourages the growth of black sooty mold. This mold

is harmless to people, but it causes damage to plants. The nymphs and adults feed on the phloem of trees and shrubs, excreting the large volumes of honeydew.

In areas infested with Spotted Lanternfly, residents report hundreds of these bugs releasing honeydew, affecting quality of life and ability to enjoy the outdoors during the spring and summer months. Spotted Lanternflies will cover trees and swarm in the air, and their honeydew will coat decks, play equipment, vehicles, and anything else beneath the infested trees.

Severe feeding damage results in oozing wounds on the trunk, then wilting and death of affected branches. Often the entire tree or bush will die from the infestation.

Eggs are deposited in masses and covered by a waxy protective substance.



Adult lanternfly, wings closed



IF YOU BELIEVE

you have found an SLF, notify ODA immediately by calling:

1-800-525-0137 or email [plant-entomologist](mailto:plant-entomologist@oda.state.pa.us)

There are four nymphal instars (pictured here). Female lanternflies are larger than males, but even they are still little over one inch from wingtip to wingtip.

Removing Tree of Heaven, a favorite host of the spotted lanternfly (and an invasive species of tree) can reduce the risk of pest infestation and spread. The tree should be removed with its entire root system when possible. If the tree was cut, its stump should be treated with herbicides to prevent regrowth.

A Warning: Care should be taken while removing the tree of heaven since the toxic plant sap can cause skin irritation, headaches, nausea, and in some cases cardiac problems. Sumac and black walnut trees also look similar to the tree of heaven, but when bruised, the leaves of the latter give out a rancid peanut butter odor.

One quasi-effective control is the application of special wide sticky bands around tree trunks, trapping both nymphs and adults on their way up the trunk. Although some insecticides work, they

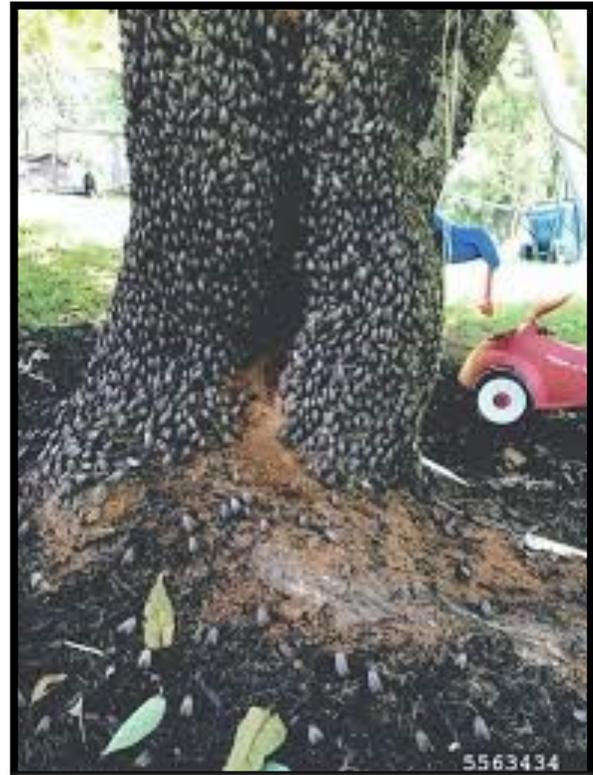
are only a temporary and localized solution: there are always more insects to take the place of the poisoned ones. To date there are no known biological controls, so keeping this insect from becoming a resident in Oregon is the only effective way to thwart it.



Donn Callaham



Early stage nymph (1st thru 3rd instars)



Adults invading a tree in Pennsylvania

Lanternfly egg masses on trunk of a tree



Late stage nymph (4th instar)

Some Living “Tunnels”



This tunnel of beech trees in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, was planted in the 18th century by a man who was trying to impress people coming up to his estate at the end of the road. The 150 trees, planted in about 1775, are referred to as the “Dark Hedges.”

W

isteria tunnel at Kawachi Fuji Garden in Fukuoka, Japan. The gardens are home to about 150 Wisteria plants (white, blue, purple, violet-blue and pink) spanning 20 different species. When not in bloom, the garden is described as a “disheartening mass of lifeless, twisted branches”.



Asian giant hornet update

Asian giant hornets have arrived in the U.S. (in northern Washington state) at the worst possible time, as the use of insecticides and other chemicals in agriculture have already damaged bee populations and varroa mites have devastated many hives. A decline in bee populations puts the entire food chain at risk. Now, scientists are warning that the Asian giant hornets are about to enter their seasonal "**slaughter phase**," where the bees they hunt will be the most vulnerable.

As we wrote before, random invasive Asian giant hornets have been spotted and trapped in northwest Washington state and, as their reputation suggests, they're a real menace when they come into contact with native and European bees.

The hornets find hives and then kill off the bees. The bees are no match for the massive hornets. They will visit apiaries, basically mark a hive, then attack it in force, removing every bee from the hive. The hornets decapitate the bees, killing all of the workers and then spending the next few days harvesting the brood and the pupae out of the hive as a food source. It is utterly devastating for a hive, allowing no potential for recovery.

WDA takes their hornet-vacuuming seriously!



In Washington, agriculture officials have been hunting for nests of the Asian giant hornets in the hopes of wiping them out before they can wreak havoc on beehives. They've found both dead and living giant hornet specimens in various places,



Vacuuming performed at night, ensuring all hornets in the nest.

but tracking a hornet to a hive is challenging.

Researchers first glued tracking chips to the hornets, but those either fell off or prevented the hornet from flying. Eventually a tracker tied on with dental floss was successful, but the signal was lost when the hornet flew into deep woods. At the time, only cell phones could read the chip signals, but with more sophisticated electronics the WDA finally succeeded.

Just two weeks ago officials did locate and vacuum out a nest found in a hollow tree. After removing the brood, they impregnated the tree with CO2 to kill any remaining insects, then will remove the entire tree to check for hidden hornets. This is an excellent start, but there is no way to tell if there are more nests about, so the tracking will go on as long as the hornets are flying.

Donn Callaham





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GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE YAMHILL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS™ ASSOCIATION ARE ANNOUNCED IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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