

# UMass Extension's 2023 Invasive Insect Webinar Series

January 25, February 8, and Feb. 22, 2023

9:00 AM – 11:45 AM via GotoWebinar (Live)

UMass Extension's Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program and UMass Extension's Fruit Program presents a series of FREE webinars focusing on the impact, monitoring, and management of invasive insects in Massachusetts and the nation!

## Day 1 - January 25, 2023

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM – **Forest Pest Risk is Heating Up with Climate Change**

*Audrey Barker-Plotkin, Senior Scientist and Site & Research Manager, Harvard Forest*

Insect pests and pathogens, and climate change, each threaten forest health. But what happens when the two are combined? Climate change brings pests to new areas, makes pests more damaging, reduces trees' defenses to pests, and can alter how forests recover after pest disturbance. Strategies for managing the combined impacts of forest pests and climate change include preventing new pest introductions, resisting pest spread by treating individual trees and diversifying forest stands, promoting more resilient forests that can rebound from pests, and helping forests transition to a state better adapted to our future climate.

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM – Break

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM – **Spotted Lanternfly Updates for Massachusetts from MDAR**

*Elizabeth Barnes, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, MA Department of Agricultural Resources*

The MA Department of Agricultural Resources will provide updates on the current status of the invasive spotted lanternfly in Massachusetts. A brief review of the biology, hosts, and identification of this insect will be discussed. Presenters will also discuss the established populations of this insect in MA along with MDAR survey and response efforts.

## Day 2 – February 8, 2023

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM – **Spotted Lanternfly Management in the Landscape**

*Brian Walsh, Extension Educator, Ornamentals, PennState Extension*

Managing spotted lanternfly in locations where this insect has become established and damaging populations are seen in Massachusetts will be important. Learn from the experience of PennState Extension, who have been dealing with this pest since 2014, about best management practices for this insect. An integrated pest management (IPM) approach to dealing with the spotted lanternfly is recommended.

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM – Break

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM – **Entomopathogens of Spotted Lanternfly, Biopesticides, & Scouting Egg Masses in Vineyards**

*Dr. Eric Clifton, Research Scientist, BioWorks*

This presentation will discuss recent research of epizootics (outbreaks of disease) from entomopathogens (insect killing fungi) on spotted lanternfly populations in Pennsylvania. This presentation will also cover lab and field trials using biopesticides (*Beauveria bassiana* and *Isaria fumosorosea*) on spotted lanternfly nymphs and adults. The talk will also provide some insight on scouting for egg masses in vineyards.

## Day 3 – February 22, 2023

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM – **Beech Leaf Disease: and the newly described nematode that causes it.**

*Dr. Robert Marra, Associate Agricultural Scientist, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station*

This presentation will discuss what is currently known about the biology of the foliar nematode (*Litylenchus crenatae*, subspecies *mccannii*) causing beech leaf disease (BLD). The disease, which impacts both American and European beech, was first observed in Ohio in 2012, though the nematode was not confirmed as the cause until 2019. First detected in MA in 2020, BLD is now found as far south as VA and north to ME. Common misconceptions and the latest science to be discussed. Studies looking for effective management techniques are underway and will be briefly summarized.

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM – Break

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM – **Invasive Forest Insects in Massachusetts**

*Nicole Keleher, Director, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Forest Health Program*

Join to hear about the current status of invasive insects in our forests. We will discuss what we saw in 2022, what to expect in 2023, and some of the projects the DCR Forest Health Program has been focusing on. Learn how to identify common forest pests and what steps you can take to protect our trees.

*These webinars are part of a FREE series supported by the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture through grant 21SCBPMA1011. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the presenters and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.*

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