

**Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)  
Contract Number: 19-002, New Forest Pests Education**

**Final Report, December 16, 2019**

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) led a project to help survey the Hudson Valley Region for key new forest pests: Spotted lanternfly (SLF), which may be moving into our area; *Ailanthus altissima*, tree-of-heaven, SLF's favorite host; Asian longhorned tick (ALT) which was found in our region in 2018; and *Amyntas* spp, jumping worms which may have been here for years but are underreported. The objectives were to learn how to scout for, identify and report SLF to NYSDEC to [spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov](mailto:spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov); be "boots on the ground" to assist in the detection of SLF and to help prevent its spread; and utilize the LHPRISM BlockBuster approach and iMapInvasives mapping application to report the absence or presence of SLF and the presence of the other invasives.

In May CCEDC delivered four training workshops hosted by CCEs in the Lower Hudson. Training materials were assembled and created to teach the biology, identification, potential damage, methods of spread, monitoring and management of the invasives. The Blockbuster regional maps approach and DEC's iMapInvasives database application were included to track the current distribution and abundance of the invasives. Existing outreach materials on SLF from NYS DEC and NYS IPM were utilized and distributed. Materials for the other pests were presented from similar sources.

The workshops were publicized regionally on websites and social media and supported with a flyer and press release. Registration was provided by the Lower Hudson PRISM. Monthly communications with the attendees kept them apprised of what to look for e.g. *Ailanthus* in bloom vs. setting seeds, or the appearance of worm castings in August. They were encouraged to continue their 'citizen science' activities. News of SLF sightings in New York and northern New Jersey were also proactively shared.

Attendees were primarily CCE Master Gardener volunteers, but also included staff from NYS Parks, a large non-profit land conservancy and a historic resort. A total of 29 participated.

| Host                | Date             | Time            | Attendance |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| CCE Dutchess County | Saturday, May 11 | 9:30am - Noon   | 8          |
| CCE Orange County   | Thursday, May 23 | 12:30 – 3:00 pm | 5          |
| CCE Ulster County   | Friday, May 24   | 9:30 am - noon  | 7          |
| CCE Rockland County | Thursday, May 30 | 1:00 – 3:30 pm  | 9          |

June – October CCEDC continued raising awareness and advocating mapping in NYiMapInvasives.

- ISAW week – Large posters (2' x 4') of NYS IPM [Have You Spotted Lanternfly](#) were printed on weatherproof durable material and provided to the region's CCEs (Kingston, Putnam, Westchester, Orange, Rockland and Dutchess) as well as LHPRISM partners Vassar College, Cary IES, Jay Heritage and NY DEP to use at regional events through the summer. A total of 639 were reached.

| Host            | Date         | Venue                              | # Reached |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| CCEDC           | July 12      | Taste NY Todd Hill Farmers' Market | 23        |
| Vassar College  | July 9 & 13  | Poughkeepsie Farm Project          | 60        |
| Cary IES        | July 13      | Forest pest and pathogens walk     | 14        |
| NY DEP          | July 16-28   | Putnam County Fair                 | 200       |
| CCE Westchester | July -August | Several events                     | 50        |
| Regional CCEs   | Ongoing      | Displayed in office locations      | N/A       |
| CCEDC           | Aug 20-25    | Dutchess County Fair               | 250       |
| CCEDC           | 10/25        | Taste NY Todd Hill Farmers' Market | 42        |

- Dutchess County Fair Aug 20-25 exhibits were staffed each day 10am-7pm by Master Gardener Volunteers and reached approximately 550 people.
  - The large SLF poster, NYDEC flyers, NYSIPM [SLF fact sheet](#) and [checklist](#) were included in CCEDC's Ask the Master Gardener booth. An [ALT fact sheet](#) from CDC/USDA was also available. MGVs talked with over 1200 visitors to the booth on these and many other topics. Approximately 250 of each of the fact sheets were received by fairgoers.
  - Information on jumping worms was included in CCEDC's Association tent along with a Compost Exhibit. [A CCE Jumping worm fact sheet](#) and CCEDC jumping worm flyer were highlighted. MGVs talked with over 900 visitors many of whom stated they have seen the pest. Over 300 fairgoers received copies of the flyer which includes an appeal to send photos and details of worm discoveries to CCEDC who will enter the sightings in iMapInvasives. To date 25 reports have been received and entered.
- CCEDC's 4H Dragons and Damsels Entomology club displayed information on SLF including items from NYS IPM at the Dutchess County Fair August 20-25 and was also invited to display at the NY State Fair in Ithaca Aug 28-Sept 1. Over 300 were reached.
- CCEDC's Dutchess Dirt newsletter in June encouraged readers re. the NYSDEC Take the Invasive Species Mapping Challenge and in July promoted ISAW week activities. The September issue included an in-depth article on the pests, their harm, the need to avoid their spread and a request to report their presence on NYiMapInvasives. Dutchess Dirt has a subscription of over 2100 readers, and 600-750 average monthly page views.
- Lower Hudson PRISM partners were educated about this project and the pests at a partners' meeting July 23, and informed of the mapping data results on December 5. Workshops were offered to partner organizations but none were requested.

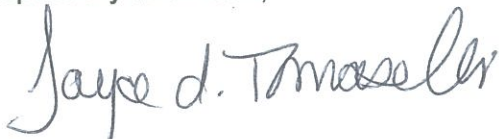
Awareness of SLF and tree-of-heaven grew strongly this summer as did data in NYiMapInvasives. Fortunately, SLF was found only a few sites in our region, but tree-of-heaven is widespread.

It was a "bad year" for ticks overall with few ALT gathered by scientists who were proactively searching for them. To date they have been reported in Westchester and Putnam counties.

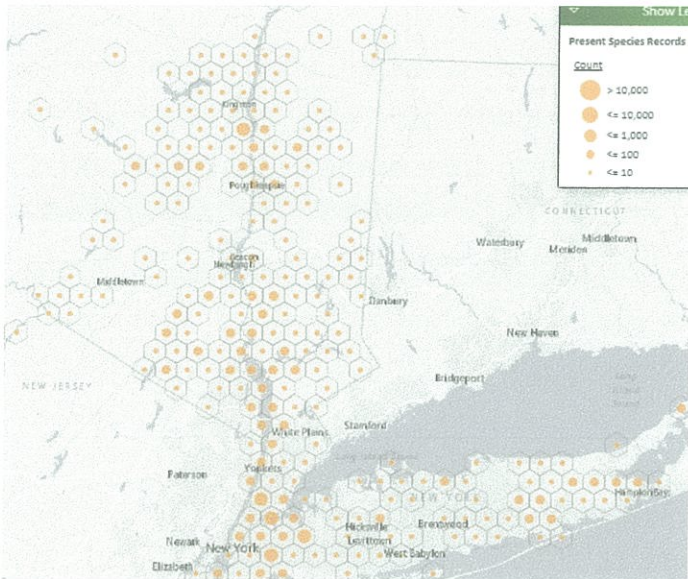
It was a "good year" for *Amyntas* sp., jumping worms – they thrived in landscapes, forests and lawns. CCE Master Gardner diagnostic services statewide received many inquiries about them from late summer into autumn and educated home gardeners how to avoid their spread. Mapping their presence is increasing in both NYiMapInvasives and iNaturalist. An infestation in CCEDC's demonstration gardens in Millbrook provided an opportunity to educate many visitors to our office including several from NY DEC, NY DEP, NY Ag & Markets and many green industry professionals. Awareness is definitely growing as well as frustration that there are no controls available.

Attached are mapping reports from NY's iMapInvasives database for tree-of-heaven and jumping worms, and the current NYSIPM map of SLF.

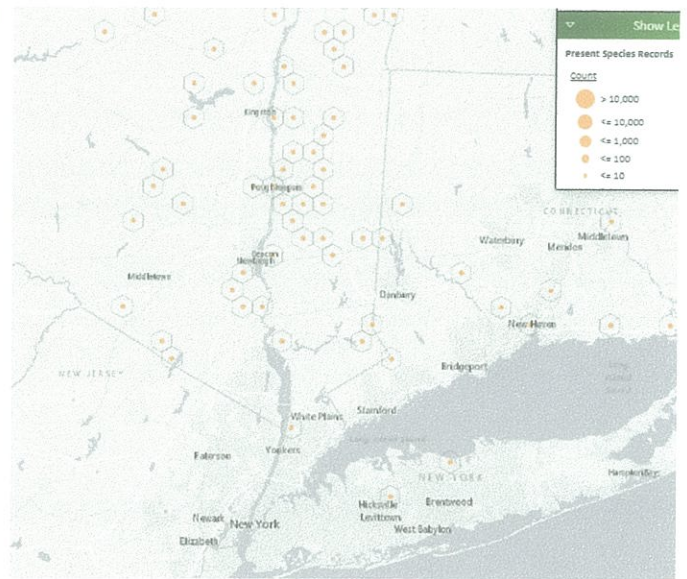
Respectfully submitted,



Joyce deVries Tomaselli  
CCEDC Community Horticulture Resource Educator



*Ailanthus altissima*, tree-of-heaven, Dec. 2019



*Amyntas* sp., jumping worms, Dec. 2019

