

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County LH PRISM Final Report 2025

The Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Agriculture/Horticulture Program, in collaboration with Master Gardener volunteers and the support of the LHPRISM program, worked in 2025 to educate Dutchess County Parks Staff and individuals through the Dutchess County Association of Town Superintendents of Highways Safety Day Event, on 6 invasive species of concern in Dutchess County: spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), beech leaf disease (*Litylenchus crenatae mccannii*), spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), and hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*). All of these organisms have been reported in the Hudson Valley and have populations that are expected to increase in the coming years. We held two training sessions, one at Bowdoin Park on September 10th, and one at the Dutchess County Association of Town Superintendents of Highways Safety Day Event on October 7th. At Bowdoin Park, we presented to 15 Dutchess County Parks staff, including DC Parks Director Brian Coons. The training included an invasive species presentation, a hands-on tree identification activity, preserved insect samples for attendees to view and handle, and we held a ribbon cutting with County Executive Sue Serino to celebrate the opening of a boot brush station at the park.



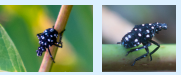



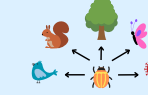



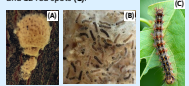

Left Panel: County Executive Sue Serino, CCEDC Ag/Hort Program Leader Isabella Yannuzzi, CCEDC Community Horticulture Coordinator Heather Brenner, DC Parks Director Brian Coons, DC Parks employees, and Master Gardener volunteers celebrating the opening of the boot brush station. **Right Panel:** The “Slow the Spread, Brush Your Tread” boot brush station at Bowdoin Park. Four boot brush stations were designed, printed, and provided to DC Parks for installation at popular trailheads.





Left Panel: Master Gardener Volunteer Serena presenting on beech leaf disease to Dutchess County Parks employees at Bowdoin Park. **Right Panel:** Heather Brenner, CCEDC Community Horticulture Coordinator, speaking with a member of the Dutchess County Parks team and distributing resources.

The boot brush stations not only provide park visitors the opportunity to clean their shoes and actively assist with invasive species prevention, but also provide information on relevant invasive species in Dutchess County, and holds seasonal informational pamphlets on invasive species life stages and identification. The informational pamphlets that we designed and provided for the boot brush station contain seasonal information regarding which life stages of each of the six invasive species we presented on are emergent and present during spring, summer, and fall, and how park visitors can report sightings using iMapInvasives.

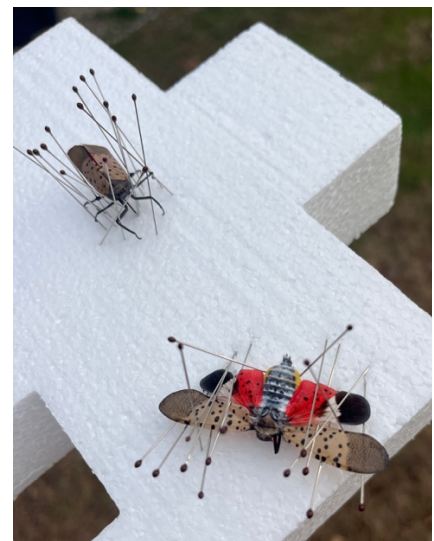
<h3>What to Look For in Spring</h3>	<h3>How to Report Sightings</h3>	<h3>SPRING INVASIVE SPECIES</h3>	<h3>What is an Invasive Species?</h3>	<h3>What to Look For in Spring</h3>	<h3>What to Look For in Spring</h3>
<p>Spotted Lanternfly This invasive planthopper hatches in the early spring as black and white nymphs that are 1/2" long. If you spot them, we recommended you squish them! This insect is a voracious pest of many agricultural crops including grapes, maple, and apple, and its preferred host, the tree of heaven, is also an invasive species.</p>  <p>Tree of Heaven This invasive tree can be spotted year round and is a favorite of spotted lanternfly. Originally from Asia, this plant outcompetes native species and each fruit it produces can have hundreds of seeds. They have compound leaves that are symmetrical except of a small protuberance on one side that makes them resemble mittens.</p> 	 <p>If you find invasive species in this park, or around your community, you can report sightings to iMapInvasives. This platform collects information on the spread of invasive species and helps scientists determine where to implement conservation and management efforts. Scan the QR code with your phone to visit the website and learn more!</p>	<p>WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN MAY AND JUNE</p>  <p>Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Dutchess County Farm & Home Center 2715 Route 44 Millbrook, New York 12545-5566 Phone: 845-677-8223 Email: dutchess@cornell.edu Website: https://ccedutchess.org/</p>	 <p>In their native habitats, organisms evolve with other plants, insects, mammals, diseases, and predators. This creates a balanced ecosystem and prevents any one organism from overpopulating.</p>  <p>When organisms are introduced to a new habitat, they no longer have native predators and diseases to maintain their population levels and have the potential to become invasive. Invasive organisms rapidly reproduce, and can devastate and outcompete local flora and fauna.</p>	<p>Beech Leaf Disease This disease is caused by parasitic nematodes and can kill saplings within 2 years and mature trees in 6-10 years. In the spring months the beech leaf nematode emerges from bud scales and migrates to the beech leaves, causing dark green bands to form. Look for beech trees with sparse foliage, banded leaves that are smaller than normal and damaged, and dead branches.</p>  <p>Emerald Ash Borer In the spring, overwintering larvae develop into pupae within ash trees. Adults emerge in late spring, forming identifiable D-shaped holes. In the spring you can spot exit holes and adult insects.</p> 	<p>Spongy Moth In the spring, egg masses (A) produce 1/4 inch caterpillars (B) and within 7 weeks they form dark brown pupae. Caterpillars start out small, very fuzzy, and dark brown/black. As they grow, they lighten in color and develop 10 blue spots and 12 red spots (C).</p>  <p>Hemlock Woolly Adelgid During the spring, adults emerge and lay between 50-100 eggs. Eggs then hatch and mobile woolly adelgid "crawlers" move to feed on branches. Though they are out in the spring, they are very small and difficult to see. To find this insect, look for the white, woolly masses at the base of hemlock needles.</p> 

Our Spring Invasive Species Pamphlet that we designed, printed, and provided to Dutchess County Parks Staff to distribute through the bootbrush station and to hand out to visitors.



Spotted lanternfly scraper cards, spotted lanternfly awareness and information signs, seasonal invasive species pamphlets, and laminated informational posters for the parks staff to use, distribute, and display were also provided. Following the presentation, we had the opportunity to walk a few of the trails with DC Parks employees to scout for tree of heaven and spotted lanternfly populations.

During the Dutchess County Association of Town Superintendents of Highways Safety Day Event, we presented to 150 DC Highway Department employees from multiple municipalities, some of which included Fishkill, East Fishkill, the Town of Stanford, Rhinebeck, the Town of Redhook, and the Town of Clinton. In addition to the presentation, we distributed educational materials, including seasonal invasive pamphlets, identification cards, resources for invasive species management, and spotted lanternfly scraper cards. The opportunity to speak with people working county-wide, and regularly interacting with these species of concern was incredibly valuable. Through distributing educational materials on invasive species identification and management, instructions on how to use iMapInvasives, and making connections with highway and parks workers throughout the county, we worked to strengthen the knowledge and awareness of our community to invasive species.



Left Panel: CCEDC Master Gardener Volunteer Paul presenting on hemlock woolly adelgid to the Dutchess County Association of Town Superintendents of Highways Safety Day Event. **Right Panel:** An example of the preserved insect specimens (in this case two pinned spotted lanternflies) we provided during the presentation to allow presentation attendees to practice identification and allow them to handle examples of the invasive species we were discussing.

