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Spotted Lantern Fly Identified in Weston, CT

Weston CT, Aug. 21, 2023 – The tree warden identified the presence of the spotted lantern fly (SLF) in the south end of Weston near the Westport line along Route 57 late in 2022 and destroyed the insect and notified nearby plant nursery and the town administrator. Periodic checks have been made around town since then and until this month found no other insects and nor received any reports of the insect's presence in town. Last Friday, a resident in the north end of town near the Redding line reported its presence.

In January 2023, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) issued a Quarantine Order with defined restricted areas for the exotic pest spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*. This insect has been detected in Connecticut with established populations detected in Fairfield, Litchfield, Hartford, New London, and New Haven counties and single individuals intercepted in numerous towns. Pictures and full details on this insect can be found at:

CT Spotted Lanternfly

https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Forest-Protection/Spotted-Lanternfly

The Tree Warden will make a report and recommendations regarding SLF to the Board of Selectmen in early September

In summary, what should residents do or not do if they see the spotted lantern fly:

First, and most important – if you think you have observed spotted lanternflies, do not attempt to move any wood or other potentially infested material from the site. Instead, you should:

- Report potential sightings of this invasive pest. If you suspect you have found a SLF, snap a picture of it and fill out this SLF Reporting Form. <u>Connecticut Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF)</u> <u>Reporting (arcgis.com)</u>
- Kill any spotted lanternflies you find immediately.
- Follow these tips for dealing with spotted lanternflies. CAES-SLF-Residential-Factsheet.pdf
- Please check your vehicles for stowaways! Inspect your vehicles, trailers, and other items for SLF adults and egg masses when travelling through areas with known or suspected SLF populations. These insects are known to hitch a ride on vehicles and even clothing.