

Invasive Insect Certification Program: For Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forest Pests

Location: Virtual via GotoWebinar

Day 1: Wednesday, September 27, 2023: The Impacts and Costs of Invasive Insects

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM: Introductions and explanations of quizzes, certificates, and pesticide and association credits.

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Characteristics of Invasive Insects and How They Get Here

Tawny Simisky, Extension Entomologist, UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program

A brief discussion of what characteristics enable insects to be invasive, general ways in which insects get introduced to new places, a short review of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and prioritizing that strategy for the management of insect pests.

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM - Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine Regulatory and Survey Programs with a Focus on the Federal Regulations Pertinent to Invasive Insects in Southern New England

Kate Aitkenhead, United States Department of Agriculture- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

This will be a discussion describing the PPQ programs and the agencies involved in the cooperative pest detection and eradication efforts currently in southern New England. Participants will be introduced to their State Plant Health Director and who to notify if you believe you have found an invasive insect.

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM: Closing remarks, credit explanations, quiz reminders.

Day 2: Thursday, September 28, 2023: The Impacts and Costs of Invasive Insects, continued

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM: Introductions and explanations of quizzes, certificates, and pesticide and association credits.

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

The Asian Longhorned Beetle in Massachusetts: 2023 Updates from Worcester – Jenny Pezzullo and Daniel Berard, United States Department of Agriculture- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

2023 updates from the Cooperative Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program in Worcester, MA will be provided, as well as highlights from other national programs. Participants will be reminded what to look out for and who to contact if you suspect you have found an Asian longhorned beetle or the damage they cause. Federal regulations surrounding Asian longhorned beetle to be discussed.

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM - Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The Emerald Ash Borer: Communities Managing a National Pest

David Lefcourt, City of Cambridge Massachusetts

Learn from a tree warden and arborist who has first-hand experience helping Massachusetts communities navigate losing urban forest canopy to the emerald ash borer. Lessons learned and how to manage the high cost while ensuring safe and vibrant greenspace for your city or town.

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM: Closing remarks, credit explanations, quiz reminders.

Day 3: Tuesday, October 10, 2023: Invasive Forest and Agricultural Insects in MA: Current and Future

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM: Introductions and explanations of quizzes, certificates, and pesticide and association credits.

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Invasive Forest Insects in MA: Identification, Life Cycles, Hosts, Damage, and MA State Regulations

Nicole Keleher, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

A presentation of the many different invasive forest insects in MA including an update on current pest issues.

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM - Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Invasive Agricultural Insects in MA: Current and Potential Future Pests

Dr. Jennifer Forman Orth, MA Department of Agricultural Resources

A review of invasive insects in MA that have the potential to impact agricultural commodities, along with the pest survey and management efforts conducted by MDAR. Current pests will be highlighted, along with potential future pests covered by the state's CAPS program. The presentation will cover identification and biology, host plants, MDAR's outreach efforts, and how to report suspicious insects.

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM: Closing remarks, credit explanations, quiz reminders.

Day 4: Wednesday, October 11, 2023: Invasive Forest and Agricultural Insects in Massachusetts, continued

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM: Introductions and explanations of quizzes, certificates, and pesticide and association credits.

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Spotted Lanternfly is Here: Updates from Massachusetts

Dr. Elizabeth Barnes, MA Department of Agricultural Resources

Recognizing the life stages of the spotted lanternfly (eggs, nymphs, adults), life cycle, and hosts. Updates about the Massachusetts infestations as well as MA Department of Agricultural Resources efforts to manage this invasive insect.

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM - Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Not an Insect, But Invasive Earthworms: What's the Latest with Jumping Worms? – Olga Kostromytska,

Extension Assistant Professor and Turf Entomologist, UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture

Technically earthworms are not insects, but they have garnered a lot of interest from the public in recent years. Presentation to discuss the identification and biology of invasive earthworms in MA. This will include information about "crazy/jumping worm" species (Amyntas) that have many homeowners in MA and New England concerned. Dr. Kostromytska will also share updates about current research.

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM: Closing remarks, credit explanations, quiz reminders.

Day 5: Wednesday, October 25, 2023: Management of Invasive Forest and Landscape Insect Pests

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM: Introductions and explanations of quizzes, certificates, and pesticide and association credits.

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Biological Control of the Winter Moth and Emerald Ash Borer

Dr. Joseph Elkinton, *University of Massachusetts*

*A quick review of these important forest and landscape pests. Dr. Elkinton will discuss the successes of managing winter moth in Massachusetts and New England with the release of *Cyzenis albicans*, a parasitic fly. Dr. Elkinton will also discuss the ongoing biological control effort of the emerald ash borer, a highly destructive forest and urban tree pest.*

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM - Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Biological Control of the Spotted Lanternfly: Updates

Hannah Broadley, *USDA - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, PPQ Science and Technology*

The factors that go into making decisions about approving the release of exotic biological control agents will be discussed, as will the permitting and testing process prior to release of non-native biocontrol agents. Highlighting Forest Pest Methods Laboratory research and the biocontrol of SLF: key species involved and current and future research.

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM: Closing remarks, credit explanations, quiz reminders.

Day 6: Thursday, October 26, 2023: Management of Invasive Forest and Landscape Insect Pests, continued

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM: Introductions and explanations of quizzes, certificates, and pesticide and association credits.

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Invasive Insects as Pests of Managed Landscapes

Tawny Simisky, *Extension Entomologist, UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery, and Urban Forestry Program*

Identification, life cycles, host plants, damage, and effective management of invasive insect pests of landscapes, such as: viburnum leaf beetle, elongate hemlock scale, box tree moth, and elm zigzag sawfly, time permitting.

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM - Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Reduced Risk Strategies for Managing Landscape and Nursery Insect Pests

Daniel Gilrein, *Extension Entomologist, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County*

This presentation will discuss important nursery pest insects and current reduced risk strategies to manage them, including organic and other unconventional alternatives. Invasive insects will be the focus, although some problematic native species may be highlighted as well.

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM: Closing remarks, credit explanations, quiz reminders.