



GROWING TOGETHER

Plantation Lakes Garden Club, Millsboro, Delaware

A Member of National Garden Clubs, Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Clubs, and Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs

APRIL 2023

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THIS AND THAT

April Celebrations

- 9th Easter Sunday
- 16th Orthodox Easter Sunday
- 19th Shawn Ferrell

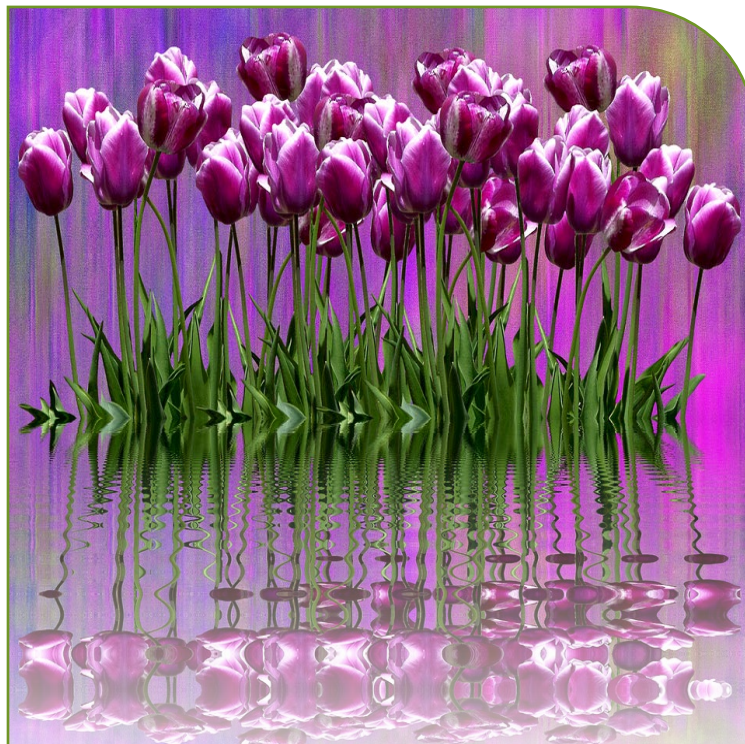
PENNY PINES



Donate your coins for the National Garden Clubs' Penny Pines project – saving forests \$68 at a time. Please contact Mary Balasi, PLGC Chair, to add a name on the “in honor of” or “in memory of” list for our next certificate purchase.

<https://www.gardenclub.org/penny-pines>

“He that plants trees loves others besides himself.” ~ Thomas Fuller.



MAKE IT AND TAKE IT

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

- 10:30 am Doors open at The Landing Flex Room
- 11:00 am Business meeting
- 11:30 am Terrarium in a Jar
Presented by Alva Hutchison
President, Gardeners By The Sea

Members will receive all the components needed to make a small greenhouse – also known as a terrarium in a jar – and take it home. Alva will be installed as First Vice President of the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs at the meeting on April 19th.

Activities

The Hitchhiker

Our February program presented by Darren from the Delaware Department of Agriculture was an eye-opener for members which cautioned us to be knowledgeable and proactive. The spotted lanternfly is a destructive, invasive plant hopper native to China, India, and Vietnam that attacks many hosts, including vines, shrubs, fruit trees, and nursery stock.

First detected in Pennsylvania in 2014, this pest has spread to 11 states, including all three Delaware counties. The egg masses can be hard to spot making it easy to transport them on vehicles, including trailers, stone, metal, or anything that has spent time outdoors hence the moniker “the hitchhiker bug” - #HitchHikerBug.

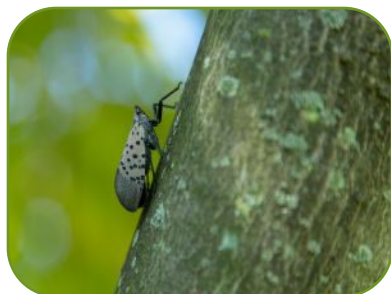
What Does a Spotted Lanternfly Look Like?



The spotted lanternfly adult is 1” long and ½” wide at rest. The forewings are grey with black spots and the hind wings are red with black spots. The head and legs are

black, and the abdomen is yellow with broad black bands. Immature stages are small, round, and black with white spots and develop red patches as they grow. Pictured above is an adult with wings spread out, walking over mulch in the fall.

The picture to the right depicts an adult spotted lanternfly on the bark of a maple tree in the Fall.



Signs and Symptoms

Spotted lanternfly feed on sap from trees using their piercing-sucking mouthparts, causing noticeable weeping wounds on susceptible trees, leaving a grayish or black sticky trail along the trunk. This sap will attract other insects to feed, notably wasps and ants. While feeding, spotted lanternflies produce honeydew, a sugary excretion that can fall and coat leaves and objects below feeding locations. Honeydew also causes mold growth, preventing photosynthesis.

Susceptible trees such as the Tree of Heaven, Walnut and Willow, might also develop weeping wounds. The



spotted lanternfly feeds through the bark. Branch dieback, wilting, and plant death are common symptoms of heavy feedings. In the fall, adults will lay egg masses on host trees. Newly laid egg masses have a grey mud-like covering and should be scraped off into a bag.

Delaware’s Proactive Approach

Delaware has been working to monitor infestations since Pennsylvania first detected the insect in 2014. In 2017, Delaware’s Plant Industries inspectors detected one dead spotted lanternfly in Wilmington. In 2018 surveys were conducted around the area where the dead one was discovered and with the hatching of egg masses and adults present, the population in Delaware grew.



Residents who live near Dover Air Force Base or anywhere in Sussex County are encouraged to **report sightings of spotted lanternfly.**

News for Members

SUCCESSFUL DINE & DONATE

PLGS’s first foray into Dine & Donate fundraising was held at Texas Roadhouse on March 14th. Thanks to all who attended and to those members who helped at the welcome table. Great job!!! It was a bitter cold evening, and we truly appreciate our supporters for braving the elements. Karen Cole, the local store marketer, complimented our club on our table presentation and flower arrangement. And we had fun, too!

ELECTION DAY IS HERE

Members will be casting their votes at the April 6th meeting for the next slate of officers to serve for the 2023 – 2025 term. Anyone who is not planning to attend the meeting, please drop off your **anonymous** ballot to Mary Balasi at 24854 Magnolia Circle by Wednesday, April 5th using the ballot that was provided by email in March and April.



The following candidates have been identified and are unopposed:

- First Vice President Pat Minnigh
- Second Vice President.....Janet Parham
- Treasurer Irina Giller
- Recording SecretaryDenise Clark
- Corresponding Secretary Donna Williams-Paddock

There are two candidates for the position of President: Debbie Darr and Margaret Woda.

The majority vote of members will make the selection. It is very important that every member submits a ballot to guarantee a majority vote.

PLANT SALE / MAY BASKETS

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023
NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY CENTER

10:00 am – 1:00 PM

Pick up pre-ordered plants.

11:00 am – 12:00 noon

May Basket Demonstration
presented by Cassie Camancho

CAR-SGC 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

October 24-25, 2023 Conference and Tri-Refresher
“Seven Strong on a Fall Adventure”
Radisson Hotel Corning, New York

The annual conference rotates among the seven member entities. Workshops and tours are regular features. Don’t miss an opportunity to experience the many facets of garden clubs from our neighboring states as well as going somewhere different!

DFGC MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023 - RESERVATIONS CLOSED

10:00 a.m. The Executive Banquet and
Conference Center in Newark

Hosted by: Countryside Garden Club
Program: *The How’s and Wows of Longwood*
Presented by Jim Sutton

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023

10:00 a.m. Heritage Shores in Bridgeville
Hosted by: Four Seasons Gardeners Garden Club
Program: TBD

Awards will be presented at this meeting.



THIS AND THAT

Patio Plants

Potted plants can transform a so-so patio into a verdant, magical space. As warm weather rolls around, there's nothing quite like lounging in the fresh air surrounded by luscious greenery. With the right plants, it's easy to turn a patio into a private, colorful, fragrant space.

In addition to the size of containers, knowing how many hours of direct and indirect sunlight the space gets will be useful when navigating the "full sun" or "part shade" aisles at the garden centers.



Tuberous Begonias are an excellent choice for a patio plant, and their bright pink, red, and white petals will add a pop of color.

The tuberous variety of begonias is the easiest to care for and features the biggest blooms, but it needs a big pot to grow. Although they can thrive in full shade, they bloom best with at least 4 to 6 hours of indirect sunlight.



Million Bells (Calibrachoa) is an annual plant that comes in a wide assortment of colors and patterns. They have a long blooming season starting in the spring and continuing into fall. Recognized by

their hanging stems, they can be planted in a variety of patio-ready containers, like hanging baskets, pots, and window boxes.



Sweet Alyssum's tiny bloom clusters and delightful fragrance make it a terrific pick for patio gardens. It is a hardy, adaptable plant with a long blooming season, and spreads beautifully when planted

in beds. In hanging pots or baskets, sweet alyssum often spills over the sides and does well sharing a container with other plants.



Fan Flowers are a unique patio plant with delicate, fan-shaped petals. Once these hardy flowers are established, they are drought and heat tolerant and attract butterflies and bees. Often grown in

containers, hanging baskets, and window boxes to show off their magnificent trailing habit, fan flowers also add a colorful pop to a patio border. Requires full sun.



Cosmos is a cheery flower that needs full sun and moderate water to flourish and comes in a spectrum of colors ranging from white to pink and bright orange.

Cosmos attracts pollinators, so patio gardeners should not be surprised to find more butterflies and birds around when this flower is in bloom.



Geraniums are iconic garden flowers best known for their lush green leaves and brilliant petals. They require direct sunlight, moderate moisture, and periodic bloom deadheading to promote

continuous, healthy blooms.



Heliotropes are known for their pleasant, almost vanilla-like scent. Their white- and purple-toned flowers begin to open in the summer and grow in unique, asymmetrical clusters. Heliotropes

grow well in containers and require at least 6 hours of full sun. As beautiful as they are, however, pet owners should be aware that the flowers are toxic if ingested.



Lantana's colorful flowers and light fragrance attracts bees and butterflies and is a lovely patio plant. It can grow up to 6 feet tall, so a few strategic pots on the patio might provide some privacy or block

an unsavory view. Dwarf varieties are available and suitable for smaller containers. Lantana requires direct bright sunlight, and the soil should be well-watered but not soggy.

Reference: Brittany Varano, March 13, 2023. Bob Vila "The Dirt" Online Newsletter. Photos: istockphoto.com.