

Agriculture & Natural Resources



HENRICO HORTICULTURE

Late Spring/Early Summer 2019 Edition

Henrico County Office
 PO Box 90775
 8600 Dixon Powers Drive
 Human Services Bldg., 2nd Floor
 Henrico, VA 23273-0775
 (804) 501-5160
 Fax: (804) 501-5169
<https://henrico.us/extension/>

Edward R. Olsen, *Henrico County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources, Horticulture*



In This Issue:

Mid-Spring Tips in Lawn Care	2
Spotted Lanternfly and Traveling North.....	3
Ash Trees and The Emerald Ash Borer.....	4
Programs from the Henrico VCE Office	6
Henrico Master Gardener’s Impact in Henrico	7
Urban Wood and EAB Program	8
Well Water Testing Clinic.....	9
Look Before You Leave.....	10



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

Mid-Spring Tips in Lawn Care

*Mike Goatley, Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist
School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech*

For both cool-season (primarily tall fescue) and warm-season (either bermudagrass or zoysiagrass) lawns in this area there are several strategies that always apply to having the best lawn possible: Soil test at least once every 3 years in order to make informed decisions regarding lime, phosphorus, and potassium applications. There is never a ‘wrong time’ to soil test and your local extension office can help you in how to take the test and interpret the results.

- When is the last time you sharpened and balanced your mower blade? Once per year puts you above the national average for a homeowner, but it’s not enough! Cutting turf with a dull blade is the number one cause of ‘disease’ in lawns, especially tall fescue lawns. Sharpen and balance those blades at least twice per year in order to have the highest quality cut possible. This makes for a better looking *AND* healthier lawn.

- Don’t violate the ‘rule of mowing’: never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at any cutting event. This applies to either cool-season or warm-season grasses. Begin raising your cutting heights towards a target of at least 3 inches on cool-season grasses in mid-May in order to help maintain as deep of a root system as possible. Don’t wait for summer stress to arrive to then raise the cutting height – there might not be much left to raise! Warm-season grasses like bermudagrass or zoysiagrass can be mowed as low as 1 to 1.5 inches *IF* you can mow them often enough to keep the 1/3rd rule in place.

- If you have an irrigation system, the ideal strategy is to water your lawn deeply and infrequently. If you don’t have irrigation, consider that often the best watering strategy is doing nothing at all when it comes to watering! If grasses enter summer dormancy, stay off the lawn with mowers and foot traffic (as much as possible) and wait for rains to arrive. The turfgrass will almost always come back following a drought.



- The window for applying preemergent herbicides has passed, so if you have a large population of crabgrass now, consider applications of a postemergent product such as quinclorac (popular trade name is Drive XLR8) as soon as possible (smaller weeds are always easier than larger weeds to control). Standard broadleaf herbicides to control dandelions, plantains, etc. are usually labeled for both cool and warm-season grasses, but if you have any particularly difficult-to-control-weeds, remember that your local lawn care professionals often have access to chemistry that homeowners can’t purchase.

- Don’t be surprised if you are seeing some really large grubs when tilling your garden or digging holes to plant spring shrubs or annuals. There are almost always plenty of grubs in our soils but we experience very few problems in the spring because the root system of cool-season grasses is growing so fast it can keep up with the feeding pressure from the grub (the immature stage of varying forms of beetles). However, once the heat and humidity of the summer arrives, the cool-season turf is no



longer able to produce enough of a root system to deal with the grub feeding pressure and cool-season grasses can struggle mightily under these situations. Again, raising the cutting height will help the turf survive grub damage and if a chemical grubicide is required, the best time to treat is when the new generation of grubs has hatched from eggs, typically mid-July to early August in this area.

It is never easy having a great lawn in a climate as variable as Virginia's, but following these basic steps will always improve your chances. The Virginia Cooperative Extension webpage has several publications detailing these successful lawn management strategies at www.pubs.ext.vt.edu.

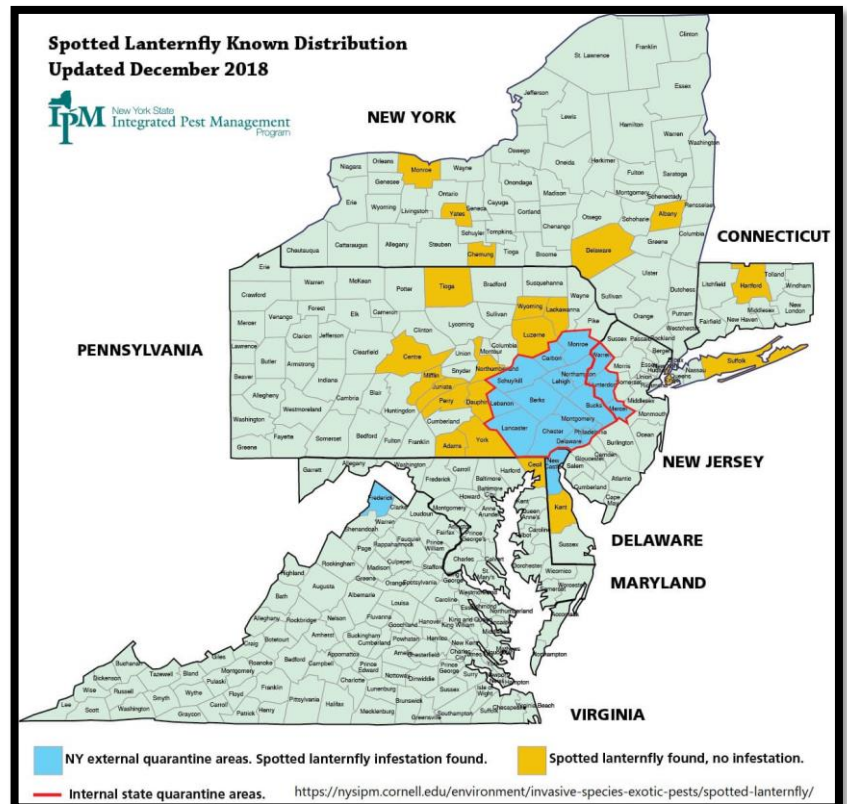
Spotted Lanternfly and Traveling North

Adapted from various Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture resources

Are you traveling north this summer? Make sure you are aware of the Spotted Lanternfly. Take a look at the map below. If you are traveling to any of the localities shaded in blue, you should be aware that these areas have known Spotted Lanternfly populations and you should take precautions to make sure that you don't have any unwanted hitch-hikers and bring this invasive pest back to the Greater Richmond Area. The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*, is an invasive planthopper native to China, India, and Vietnam. It was first discovered in Pennsylvania in Berks County and has spread to other counties in the southeast portion of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia.

This insect has the potential to greatly impact agricultural crops such as grapes, hops, and hardwood trees. It is also reducing the quality of life for people living in heavily infested areas.

This insect is easily moved if no one is looking. If you are in the quarantine area, please "Look Before You Leave" (see flyer on page 10.) Inspecting your vehicles, trailers, or any outdoor items before you move around or out of the red outlined area is important. If possible, don't park in tree lines and keep windows rolled up when you park your vehicle.



Learn about the life stages of the insect and when to look for them by reviewing the "Look Before You Leave" flyer. Please join the effort to control and prevent the spread of Spotted Lanternfly. We need everyone's help to prevent the spread of this invasive insect that has the potential to change our landscape and quality of life.

Ash Trees and Emerald Ash Borer

Adapted from various extension publications

What’s an Ash Tree? Ash trees (*Fraxinus* species) are common in Virginia. We have two native species of Ash trees commonly found in Henrico, white ash (*Fraxinus Americana*) and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). Ashes are often very tolerant of urban environments and are commonly planted in urban areas because of this. Ash trees can reach heights of over 50 feet when mature and the leaves often turn yellow in fall or reddish-purple (white ash).



Bark of white ash. Photo Credit: Keith Kanoti, Maine Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Ash Trees Can be Readily Identified by Two Key Features:

1. Opposite branching pattern—two branches come off the main stem directly across from each other.
2. Compound leaves with 5-11 leaflets (depending on the species of ash). Leaflets are moderately toothed.

Other helpful features include rough bark with diamond-shaped ridges (mature trees) and clusters of “oar” shaped seeds (samaras).

Some other common trees that resemble ash are Boxelder, Hickory, Elm, and Black Walnut. If you are not sure if you have an Ash tree or one of its look-alikes, contact the Henrico Extension office to arrange to drop off a leaf and stem sample for identification.

What is the Emerald Ash Borer? The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is native to Asia and was first detected and identified in Michigan in 2002. It is not known how it was brought into this country, although it is believed the borers arrived in untreated ash hardwood packing material (pallets) used at that time for shipping purposes. The first infestation in Virginia in 2003 was eradicated.

But it was found again in 2008 and by 2016 was found in 25 counties scattered throughout Virginia. Emerald ash borer attacks all species of ash trees that grow in Virginia.



Drawing of a white ash from the “Common Native Trees of Virginia” by the Virginia Department of Forestry.

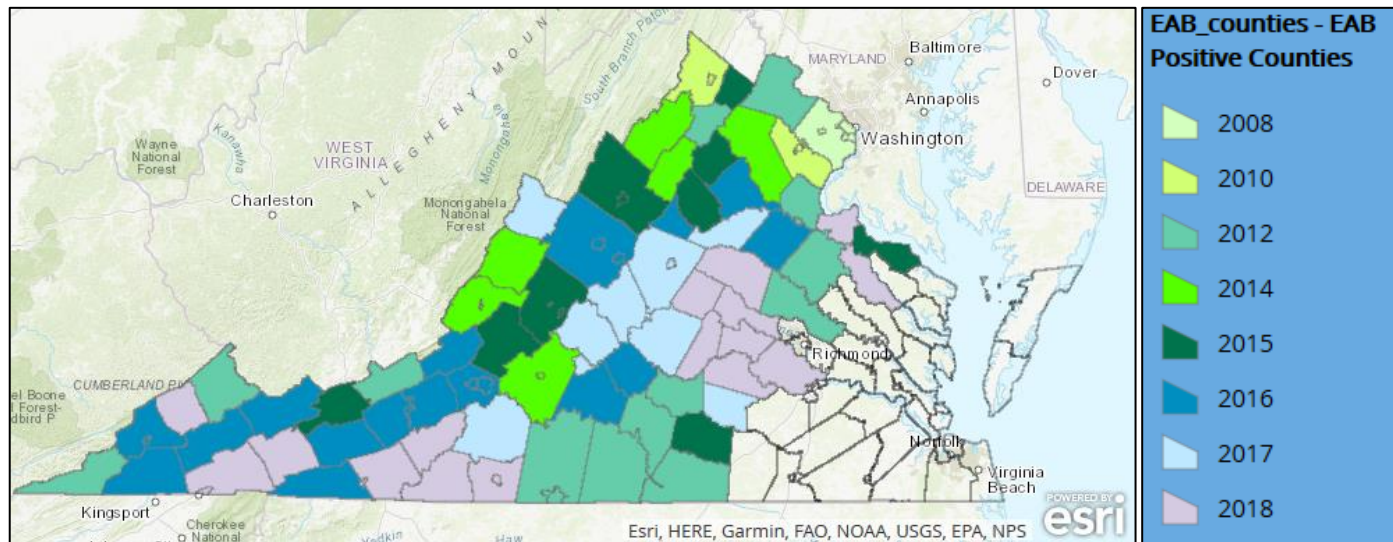


Emerald Ash Borer in larval tunnel. Photo Credit: Eric Day, Virginia Tech

The first indication of damage by the emerald ash borer is canopy dieback. Tunneling by the larvae causes girdling and death of branches and the trunk. Early feeding damage by EAB will be difficult to detect because trees show few symptoms. As the infestation progresses the trees start to thin out and branches in the top sections of the tree start to die. It usually takes 2-5 years for damage to be noticed and the EAB damage kills the tree shortly thereafter.

Adult EAB beetles are about 1/2 inch long and bright metallic green in color. Larvae are creamy white and have a tan head. The adult beetles start emerging in May and early June and beetle activity peaks between

mid-June and early-July. It is possible to see beetles as late as August. The female usually lays between 50-100 eggs one at a time in bark cracks and crevices. Eggs hatch in about a week and the newly hatched larvae borer though the bark down into the cambium layer under the bark.



Controlling the EAB. Treating on a preventative basis, before symptoms are present, is most effective. Infested trees rarely recover and need to be removed and destroyed or chipped as soon as possible. It is suggested that if you have a non-infested ash tree that you wish to save, consider treating with an approved systemic insecticide in the late April to mid-June time frame.

To find out more about ash trees, Emerald Ash Borer and a cost-share program for the treatment of ash trees threatened by Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) administered by the VA Department of Forestry, plan on attending the Urban Wood and Emerald Ash Borer program being presented in Henrico County on Tuesday, May 7. See program flyer on page 8.

If you are unable to attend the program or have other questions about the Emerald Ash Borer, please contact either the Henrico Extension office or the VDOF EAB Coordinator at 434-220-9034.

Plant RVA Natives

A CAPITAL IDEA!



Henrico
Hanover
City of Richmond
Chesterfield
Charles City
New Kent
Powhatan
Goochland
Cumberland
Amelia

Native Plants for Virginia's Capital Region



Thank you for planting Virginia Capital Region native plants!
Please help us spread the campaign's message about the many benefits of the region's native plants!

Virginia native plants provide:

- Offer beautiful with appealing foliage, flowers and berries that can make your landscape attractive and welcoming.
- Are easy and cost-effective to maintain because they're naturally adapted to our soils and climate.
- Are critical for wildlife that depend on them for food and habitat.

Thank plant providers when they stock and recommend Virginia Capital Region native plants! Tell them you will share the news!

GET YOUR FREE COPY TODAY!

For a list of distribution centers or to download a copy, visit:

www.PlantVirginiaNatives.org

Individual copies of the publication are also available for pickup from the Henrico Extension Office.

Educational Opportunities from the Henrico Extension Office

Vegetable Gardening: Weed Control, Succession Planning, Harvest & Preservation Henrico Extension Office, Demonstration Kitchen, 2nd Floor, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive 23228, Wednesday, June 13; 6-8 PM. Growing your own food can be rewarding and healthy. Learn about weed control options, how to plan your garden for plantings of multiple crops, and lastly how to harvest and preserve your vegetables. Cost \$10; to register call 501-5160.

Master Gardener Clinics

Ask a Henrico Master Gardener your Gardening Questions at the following local events!

<p>Southern States 3119 Williamsburg Road Richmond, VA 23231</p>	<p>Lakeside Farmers Market 6106 Lakeside Ave Henrico 23228</p>	<p><i>Master Gardeners in The Garden</i> Short Pump Park Pollinator Garden 3329 Pump Road, Henrico 23233</p>
<p>Saturdays from 9 am to 3 pm May 4 May 11 May 18 May 25</p>	<p>Saturdays from 8 am to 12 pm June 1 June 8 June 15 June 22 June 29</p>	<p>Second Sundays from 2:00 – 3:30 June 9 July 14 August 11 September 8</p>
<p>Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden Spring PlantFest 1800 Lakeside Ave., Richmond, VA 23228 Friday, May 3; 9 am to 5 pm Saturday, May 4, 9 am to 3 pm</p>		

Horticulture Hotline

When plant, insect, and wildlife problems happen in the lawn or garden, who do you call? A team of trained Master Gardeners are available to help answer gardening and pest questions, and solve problems using current research-based information.

By calling the helpline, you'll find yourself in contact with someone who will help identify the cause of your problem, or give an answer to your question using Virginia Tech and Virginia State University's experience and research knowledge. If the issue is addressed in one of our many factsheets, it will be sent to you for your reference.

You can reach the Horticulture Helpline by calling: (804) 501-5160.

You can also submit questions online at <http://bit.ly/Henricoaskanexpert> . Make sure to select Henrico County in the appropriate drop down box.

Disclaimer – Commercial products are named in this publication for informational purposes only. Virginia Cooperative Extension does not endorse these products and does not intend discrimination against other products which also may be suitable.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please call the Henrico Office at (804-501-5160/TDD*) during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Master Gardener Program
Henrico County

**WHAT IS THE
EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER
PROGRAM?**

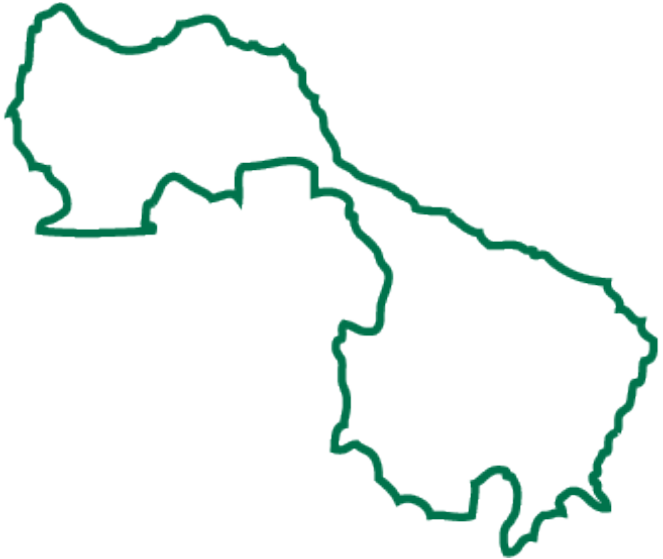
Mission: Sharing Knowledge and Empowering Communities
Extension Master Gardeners (EMG) are trained volunteer educators who work within their local communities to promote sound horticultural practices. The Extension Master Gardener program delivers the horticultural resources of Virginia's land-grant universities: Virginia Tech and Virginia State University.

Henrico County:

- 102 Master Gardeners
- 18 Master Gardener Interns
- 10 Emeritus Master Gardeners



MADE
17,967 direct
educational contacts
IN THE 2018 CALENDAR YEAR



CONTRIBUTING A TOTAL OF
8,040 volunteer hours

VALUED AT
\$221,100*
TO HENRICO

*Based on a value of \$27.50/hour from Independent Sector 2018 Value of Volunteer Hours by State

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.



The Emerald Ash Borer & Urban Wood Workshop



Topics:

- What is the Emerald Ash Borer?
- How do I manage my ash tree?
- How do I get cost-share assistance to treat my ash?
- What needs to be considered for ash removal?
- What is Urban Wood?
- What can I do with the wood from my ash tree?
- What tree species are optimal for replacing ash?



**Tuesday
May 7th
2-4:30pm**

**Henrico County Cooperative Extension
Office (2nd floor, Demo Kitchen)
8600 Dixon Powers Dr, Richmond, VA 23228
FREE
RSVP (optional) : 804.501.5160**



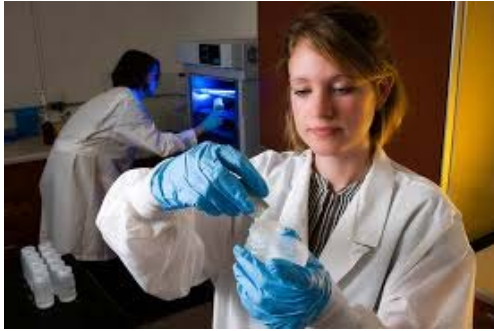
Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Henrico Extension Office at 804-501-5160/TDD* during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event.

*TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

WELL WATER TESTING CLINIC

Do you know what's in the water of your well, spring, or cistern?



Find out at the Well Water Testing Clinic sponsored by the Henrico Extension Office by having the water from your well, spring, or cistern analyzed for iron, manganese, nitrate, lead, arsenic, fluoride, sulfate, pH, total dissolved solids, hardness, sodium, copper, total coliform bacteria and E. Coli bacteria. All results are confidential.

Kickoff Meeting

Monday, June 3, 2019 at 7:00pm
Multipurpose Room,
Eastern Henrico Government Center

Sample Drop Off

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 8:00am-11:00am
Henrico Extension Office, 2nd Floor - Human Services Bldg.
8600 Dixon Powers Dr.

Results Interpretation Meeting

Monday, July 8, 2019 at 7:00pm
Community Room,
Eastern Henrico Government Center

Interested? Call the Henrico Extension Office at 804-501-5160 to register by Monday, May 20, 2019. Cost of \$60 per sample is due when you register.



VIRGINIA HOUSEHOLD
WATER QUALITY
PROGRAM

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg. If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the Henrico Extension Office at 804-501-5160/TDD* during business hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to discuss accommodations 5 days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

Look Before You Leave

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY, *LYCORMA DELICATULA*

Adult with Egg Masses | **Eggs: October - May**



Adults on *Ailanthus*



Egg Masses | **Eggs: October - May**



Early Nymph | **May - June**



Late Nymph | **June - July**



Spotted lanternfly threatens the Pennsylvania agriculture industry. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) are asking for your help in the eradication efforts of this pest. Look for the insect before leaving a quarantined area, especially after walking or parking near a tree line. This insect is not a strong flier, but may try to hitch hike a ride on your clothing, your vehicle or items sitting outdoors. For more information and the current quarantine, please visit:



Adult