June 4, 2019

Public Notice

Take notice that the New Jersey Department of Agriculture is proposing to amend N.J.A.C. 2-20-10 Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine to include Burlington, Gloucester, Camden, Salem and Somerset Counties to the current quarantine area of Warren, Hunterdon and Mercer County.

The Department is proposing amendments to N.J.A.C. 2:20 to respond to a situation of imminent peril and serious harm to the agricultural industries, environmental resources and residential areas of New Jersey and minimize further economic damage to the lumber, viticulture, nursery and tourism industries in the Northeastern United States by the Spotted Lanternfly, _Lycorma delicatula_. This insect, initially discovered in one county in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has spread to currently infest 14 counties in that state, had been discovered in the environment of New Jersey resulting in three counties being placed under quarantine.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has determined this insect to be dangerous and destructive to the agriculture, horticulture and forest industries of New Jersey and has hereby declared this insect to be a "public nuisance." The purpose of quarantine is to minimize the environmental and economic damage to the nursery, horticultural, fruit, vegetable, orchard and viticulture industries that will be severely economically affected by infestations along with the nuisance of honeydew excretions affecting the public wellbeing.

Full text of the proposal and all impact statements are published in the _New Jersey Register_ dated June 3, 2019. Full text of the proposal can be obtained by visiting the Department’s website at _http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/rule/_ where there is a link to the _New Jersey Register_.

Written comments must be submitted by August 2, 2019 to Joseph W. Zoltowski,, Director, Division of Plant Industry, Dept. of Agriculture, P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625-0330.