

PESTICIDE REPORTS

Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources • Oklahoma State University
<http://pested.okstate.edu>



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CHEM

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3A, 3B, 3C, 6, AND 7A RECERTIFICATION DEADLINE

Applicators needing to re-test for recertification in categories 3A, 3B, 3C, 6, and 7A have until December 31, 2024 to re-test at PSI to be eligible to work in 2025. Applicators should have received notice from ODAFF about the recertification process.

If applicators have enough CEUs to recertify they still must pay ODAFF the \$50 recertification fee before December 31, 2024 to complete recertification and be able to work in 2025.

If study manuals are needed call University Mailing at 405-744-9037 to order any applicator manual.

To schedule a test at PSI links can be found at our website <http://pested.okstate.edu>. Click on the link that says [Applicator Testing Procedure & FAQ](#).

(OSU PSEP)

EPA FINALIZES CANCELLATION OF THE PESTICIDE DACTHAL

Today, Oct. 22, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is announcing the cancellation of all products containing the pesticide dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate (DCPA or Dacthal) under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

In making this decision, EPA relied on the best available science, which included robust studies demonstrating thyroid toxicity. Unborn babies whose pregnant mothers are exposed to DCPA from handling, entering or working in areas where DCPA has already been applied, could experience changes to fetal thyroid hormone levels. These changes are generally linked to low birth weight, impaired brain development, decreased IQ, and impaired motor skills later in life, some of which may be irreversible.

“With the final cancellation of DCPA, we’re taking a definitive step to protect pregnant women and their unborn babies,” **said Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Michal Freedhoff.** “The science showing the potential for irreversible harm to unborn babies’ developing brains, in addition to other lifelong consequences from exposure, demands decisive action to remove this dangerous chemical from the marketplace.”

Background on DCPA and Biden-Harris Administration Efforts to Assess and Address Risks

DCPA is a pesticide that was registered to control weeds in both agricultural and non-agricultural settings, but was primarily used on crops such as broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage and onions.

In 2013, the agency issued a Data Call-In (DCI) to AMVAC Chemical Corporation (AMVAC), the sole manufacturer of DCPA, requiring it to submit more than 20 studies to support the then-existing registrations of DCPA. The required data, due in January 2016, included a comprehensive study of the effects of DCPA on thyroid development and function in adults and in

developing young before and after birth. Several of the studies that AMVAC submitted from 2013-2021 were considered insufficient to address the DCI, while the thyroid study and other studies were not submitted at all.

In April 2022, EPA issued a very rarely used Notice of Intent to Suspend the DCPA technical-grade product (used to manufacture end-use products) based on AMVAC’s failure to submit the complete set of required data for almost 10 years, including the thyroid study. Although AMVAC submitted the required thyroid study in August 2022, EPA suspended the registration based solely on AMVAC’s continued failure to submit other outstanding data following an administrative hearing. In November 2023, EPA lifted the data submission suspension after AMVAC submitted sufficient data. Most DCPA use on turf was voluntarily canceled by AMVAC in December 2023, but unacceptable risks from other uses remained.

In May 2023, EPA released its assessment on the risks of occupational and residential exposure to products containing DCPA, following its analysis of the thyroid study submitted by AMVAC. The assessment found health risks associated with DCPA use and application, even when personal protective equipment and engineering controls are used. The most serious risks were to the unborn babies. EPA estimated that some pregnant mothers handling DCPA products could be subjected to exposures four to 20 times greater than what EPA had estimated is safe for unborn babies. Also of concern were risks to unborn babies of pregnant mothers entering or working in areas where DCPA had been applied or living near areas where DCPA was used. Levels of DCPA in a treated field could remain at unsafe levels for 25 days or more. In April 2024, EPA issued a public warning regarding the significant health risks to unborn babies of pregnant mothers exposed to DCPA and its intent to pursue action to address the health risks associated with the pesticide as quickly as possible.

The August 2024 emergency suspension issued by EPA was the first time in almost 40 years EPA has taken this type of emergency action. Following EPA’s emergency suspension EPA received a letter from AMVAC stating its intent to voluntarily cancel the remaining pesticide products containing DCPA in the U.S. AMVAC subsequently announced that it intends to

cancel all international registrations as well. On Aug. 29, 2024, EPA published a notice in the Federal Register requesting public comments on the voluntary cancellation. The comment period has concluded, and EPA is publishing the final cancellation order.

The final cancellation prohibits anyone from distributing, selling or carrying out other similar activities for the remaining pesticide products containing DCPA. It also means that no person can continue using existing stocks of those products. AMVAC has developed a voluntary return program for existing DCPA products. In advance of the cancellation order, AMVAC implemented a plan to identify existing stocks and coordinated a collection process. When the return program concludes in the fall of 2024, EPA will continue monitoring this process to ensure that the collected DCPA products are disposed in a manner in accordance with applicable laws. EPA plans to release additional information about any remaining stocks in the coming months.

Read the public inspection version of the [Federal Register notice on the DCPA Final Cancellation Order for Pesticide Registrations](#). Upon publication of the Federal Register notice, the final order will be available at docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0374 at the [Regulations.gov](#) page.

For answers to frequently asked questions about DCPA, please see the [DCPA Questions and Answers webpage](#). For additional background on the DCPA and EPA's efforts to assess and address risks, see the [Aug. 6, 2024](#), or [Aug. 28, 2024](#), press releases.

(EPA, October 22, 2024)
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-cancellation-pesticide-dacthal>

EPA ANNOUNCES NEXT STEPS TO PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES FROM CHLORPYRIFOS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing additional measures to protect federally threatened or endangered (listed) species and their designated critical habitats from the effects of chlorpyrifos. The measures include new product labels containing additional protections and Endangered Species Protection Bulletins that set geographically specific limitations on pesticide use. Collectively, these measures will not only protect listed species but also reduce exposure to non-listed species.

Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate insecticide commonly used to control foliage and soil insect pests. Pesticide products containing chlorpyrifos are registered for use on agricultural crops and on nonfood sites such as ornamental plants in nurseries, golf course turf, or as wood treatment.

Background on Chlorpyrifos

In August 2021, EPA revoked all tolerances for chlorpyrifos, which establish an amount of chlorpyrifos that is allowed on food. This action essentially stopped the use of chlorpyrifos on all food and animal feed. EPA took this action in response to an April 2021 order from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for the Agency to issue—within 60 days—a final rule addressing chlorpyrifos tolerances, without taking public comment or engaging in “further fact-finding.”

On November 2, 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit vacated EPA's August 2021 rule revoking all tolerances. All chlorpyrifos food tolerances were reinstated on December 28, 2023. On February 5, 2024, EPA issued a Federal Register notice to amend the Code of Federal Regulations to reflect the court's reinstatement of those tolerances. At this time, all pre-August 2021 final rule chlorpyrifos tolerances have been reinstated and are currently in effect.

EPA will soon issue a proposed rule to revoke the tolerances associated with all food uses, except the 11 food and feed crop uses identified in the 2020 Proposed Interim Decision. Based on the available data, retaining only the 11 food uses (along with geographic limitations and additional mitigation measures) could decrease average annual pounds of chlorpyrifos applied in the U.S. by 70% as compared to historical usage.

Chlorpyrifos Label Changes to Protect Endangered Species

Under the Endangered Species Act, EPA is responsible for ensuring that its pesticide actions do not jeopardize listed species or destroy or adversely modify their critical habitats. When EPA determines in its biological evaluation that a pesticide may affect these species or habitats, EPA must consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or both (collectively referred to as the “Services”). Once consultation is complete, the Services develop a Biological Opinion (BiOp) that, among other things, determines if the pesticide is expected to jeopardize listed species or adversely modify their critical habitats, and if so, require measures to protect these species and habitats.

For chlorpyrifos, EPA determined in 2022 that then-registered uses had the potential to adversely affect one or more listed species. After consultation between EPA and NMFS, and the chlorpyrifos registrants, on June 30, 2022, NMFS issued a “no jeopardy” BiOp for chlorpyrifos and two additional organophosphate pesticides, diazinon and malathion. During that consultation, the registrants committed to amend their product labels and registrations to include measures that reduce runoff and spray drift (the movement of a pesticide through the air to an area other than the intended application area) from treated areas into species’ habitats. EPA also committed to issuing Endangered Species Protection Bulletins, available on the Bulletins Live! Two website, which set geographically specific pesticide use limitations that would protect listed species and their critical habitats.

The mitigations for chlorpyrifos include restrictions on when to apply, restrictions on tank mixing, and use limitations related to both runoff and drift, as well as wind speed restrictions.

All registrants have submitted these product labeling amendments to EPA, as well as amendments describing how to report ecological incidents associated with pesticide applications, should users observe any. EPA has also posted agreed-upon Bulletins.

For additional information on the NMFS BiOp, visit EPA’s website.

The registration review process for chlorpyrifos is ongoing. In early 2025, EPA plans to issue an amended Proposed Interim Decision for chlorpyrifos for public comment, followed by an Interim Decision in late 2025. (EPA, October 1, 2024)

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-announces-next-steps-protect-endangered-species-chlorpyrifos>

EPA FINALIZES RULE TO PROTECT FARMWORKERS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES FROM PESTICIDE EXPOSURES

Today, Oct. 2, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is announcing a final rule to restore the pesticide Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) requirements under the 2015 Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS). The AEZ is an area surrounding outdoor pesticide application equipment where people are prohibited while pesticides are applied. This rule finalizes the agency’s [2023 proposed rule](#) without change and advances the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to environmental justice, protecting farmworkers, pesticide handlers, their families and agricultural communities. It reinstates AEZ protections, extends protections for neighboring communities, makes

requirements easier to understand, and provides flexibilities for family farms without compromising protections.

“Farmworkers help to provide the food we feed our families every day and it’s EPA’s job to keep them safe from pesticides,” said **Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Michal Freedhoff**. “No one should be at risk from pesticide related illness because of their job or where they live. Today’s rule is another significant step by the Biden-Harris Administration to protect public health and deliver on environmental justice.”

Application Exclusion Zone

The WPS regulation protects over two million agricultural workers (and their families) and pesticide handlers who work on over 600,000 agricultural establishments. In 2015, EPA made significant changes to the regulation to reduce incidents of pesticide exposure among farmworkers and their family members. Less pesticide exposure means a healthier workforce and fewer lost wages, medical bills, and absences from work and school.

These changes include creating the “Application Exclusion Zone” (AEZ), an area with additional requirements to protect workers and bystanders. This area immediately surrounds the pesticide application equipment during an outdoor pesticide application. The AEZ only exists during the application, moves with the equipment during application, and can extend outside of an agricultural establishment (e.g., school grounds, residential neighborhoods). The 2015 regulation required that pesticide applicators suspend their applications if anyone is in the AEZ. It also required employers to ensure that the AEZ requirements are understood and followed and prohibited employers from directing or allowing any of their workers to enter an AEZ. By requiring additional precautions in an AEZ, the 2015 regulation aimed to prevent pesticides from contacting farmworkers and bystanders.

In 2020, the previous administration published a rule limiting AEZ protections to agricultural establishments and shrinking the size of the AEZ from 100 feet to 25 feet for some ground-based spray applications. These

changes would have meant that applicators no longer had to suspend applications if people in the AEZ were outside of an agricultural establishment, such as a neighboring property or in an easement. Additionally, some AEZs would have been sized smaller (e.g., 25 feet instead of 100 feet) even for some fine sprays, which tend to drift farther. Prior to the effective date of the 2020 AEZ Rule, petitions were filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) and in the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals challenging the 2020 Rule. The SDNY issued an order granting the petitioners’ request for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction enjoining the effective date of the rule. As a result, the 2020 AEZ Rule never went into effect.

In 2021, EPA began reviewing the 2020 AEZ Rule in accordance with Executive Order 13990, *Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis*. The agency determined that the provisions in the 2020 AEZ Rule that weakened protections for farmworkers and nearby communities from pesticide exposure should be rescinded. The proposed rule to reinstate several provisions of the 2015 rule was published in March of 2023.

Final Rule Provisions

With today’s action, EPA is finalizing its 2023 proposed rule without change. The final rule reinstates several 2015 WPS provisions protecting farmworkers and bystanders, including:

1. The AEZ suspension requirement will apply beyond the boundaries of the agricultural establishment.
2. The AEZ suspension requirement will apply in easements on the establishment (for example, easements for utility workers to access telephone lines).
3. The AEZ distance for ground-based applications will be:
 - 25 feet for applications with medium or larger droplets when sprayed from a height greater than 12 inches from the soil surface or planting medium.

- 100 feet for applications with fine droplets.

Additionally, the final rule includes two revisions that the agency believes provide clarity and flexibility for growers and farming families without increasing risk to farmworkers and bystanders:

1. An “immediate family exemption” that allows farm owners and their immediate family to remain inside enclosed structures or homes during pesticide application. This exemption, which is limited to farming families, provides them the flexibility to decide whether to stay on-site during pesticide applications, rather than compelling them to leave even when they feel safe remaining in their own homes.
2. A clarification that suspended pesticide applications can resume only after people leave the AEZ.

These changes are a critical part of EPA’s efforts to protect the health of farmworkers and support the agency’s priority to advance equity and justice for all communities. Learn more about EPA’s extensive efforts to train, support and enhance safe working conditions for agricultural workers at local, state and national levels on [EPA’s website](#).

EPA will release interim guidance by the end of October to support the regulated community in complying with the new rule and will accept feedback on how to improve the guidance after its release.

The new rule will be effective 60 days after publication of the federal register notice and will be available in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0133 at the [Regulations.gov](#) page.

(EPA, October 2, 2024)
<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-rule-protect-farmworkers-families-and-communities-pesticide-exposures>

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SEEK PARAQUAT END

Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it has yet to find a scientific link between the use of the herbicide paraquat and Parkinson's disease, 47 Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday asked the head of the agency to ban the chemical.

At the end of January 2024, EPA released a report on the ongoing review of paraquat. That ongoing review is being conducted in response to a lawsuit filed by Earthjustice on behalf of farmworkers, public health and environmental groups.

"Due to the significant human health and environmental concerns associated with paraquat, roughly 70 countries have banned or discontinued the use of paraquat, including China, Brazil, the European Union and Canada," the lawmakers said in a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan.

"We urge the EPA to change course and deliver critical protections for farmworkers, agricultural communities and the environment by banning paraquat."

EPA said in January 2024 that it plans to implement additional information on the disease as well as other information in a new review document slated for completion by Jan. 17, 2025. In its report earlier this year the agency stopped short of implementing new mitigation measures on paraquat applications.

The lawmakers led by Rep. Greg Casar, D-Texas, told Regan the chemical is particularly dangerous for farmworkers. The letter is signed by lawmakers mostly from California and joined by others from New York, Michigan, Florida, Texas, Illinois and other states.

"Findings from researchers at UCLA found that paraquat sprayed within 500 meters of where people live and work can more than double a person's odds of developing Parkinson's disease," the letter said.

The lawmakers pointed to a study by the Environmental Working Group as reason to ban the chemical.

The EWG study found 66% of all paraquat use in California was in five majority Latino counties and 65% of applications occurred in low-income areas, the letter said.

"Currently, the EPA has banned the use of paraquat for certain areas like golf courses and recreational parks," the lawmakers said to Regan.

"We should expand this ban to protect those who are at high risk because of the use of this dangerous herbicide."

EPA also issued a review decision in 2021 on the chemical, re-approving paraquat's registration.

The petitioning groups raised several issues about that decision, including potential connections to Parkinson's. At that point, EPA added several additional mitigation measures to prevent human exposure to paraquat.

"While the agency found potential risks of concern for aerial applications above 350 acres per applicator in a 24-hour period, EPA did not consider those risks unreasonable in light of the critical need for paraquat in cotton desiccation," the agency said in its latest review.

EPA said prohibiting aerial applications above 350 acres per applicator in 24 hours would have had "significant impacts" on growers who need paraquat for cotton desiccation. Such applications typically involve larger field sizes and the timing of harvest can be crucial to yield and quality outcomes.

EPA said in January 2024 that it had not reviewed all recent information on paraquat and Parkinson's disease and it will continue to seek public comment on the potential risks of using paraquat as a harvest aid.

Thousands of lawsuits have been filed against paraquat's registrants Syngenta and Chevron Chemical Company in the past several years, primarily product liability claims and alleged connections between the chemical and Parkinson's.

Use of paraquat, which is sold under brand names such as Gramaxone, Firestorm and Parazone among others, has increased steadily in the U.S. in the past decade, in response to the development of herbicide-resistant weeds.

(Progressive Farmer, October 9, 2024)
<https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/crops/article/2024/10/09/47-members-congress-ask-epas-regan>

SEEK & DESTROY?

Previous public panics over invasive insects sensationalized by scary names — killer bees and murder hornets come to mind — pale before the national freakout underway over a gaudy, sap-sucking Asian planthopper banally called the spotted lanternfly. The scare began almost as soon as the bug's presence was discovered in Pennsylvania a decade ago, with predictions that it would cause billions of dollars in damage to trees and crops and foul yards and homes with the awful excrement it leaves in its wake.

Seldom if ever has the citizenry been so zealously enlisted by government to war against an invasive insect pest, as in the effort to seek and destroy the lanternfly. From the federal government down to municipalities, the order of the day to the masses has been to squish, stomp and squash any lanternfly encountered. People have responded with gleeful bloodlust. One New Jersey town even held a Lanternfly Murder Pub Crawl. A smartphone app called Squishr for competitive lanternfly stompers will "Make squishing the Spotted Lanternfly fun." Various traps to snag lanternflies or their eggs also have been suggested to stop the much ballyhooed spread of this gaudy Asian plant hopper, but lack the thrill of the kill.

SPOT THE PROBLEM. Like other plant hoppers, lanternflies penetrate and then siphon phloem, or sap,

out of stems and branches with their piercing, sucking mouthparts, causing wilting, leaf curling and dieback. Honeydew, the lanternfly's excretion of excess sugar from its sap diet, is colonized by and promotes the growth of sooty mold, a fungus that can ruin the taste and look of fruit and curb photosynthesis by afflicted plants. Especially when lanternflies swarm in the autumn, often by the thousands, the moldy mess can cover and stain tree trunks, decks, patios and vehicles, prompting calls by homeowners for help.

Yet, even while warnings sound that the lanternfly could imperil 100 or so different trees and various crops, from peaches to pine and cucumbers to roses, some scientists are having second thoughts about whether the state-sanctioned slaughter is overkill. "The lanternfly will probably be only a nuisance for the majority of us," said Dr. Victoria Smith, Connecticut State Entomologist.

Other scientists echo her opinion, saying that healthy, mature trees generally tolerate the damage. "It is not as damaging through its feeding as we originally expected," said Julie Urban, associate research professor, Department of Entomology, Pennsylvania State University, adding that fears were based on studies in South Korea, where the lanternfly appeared in 2006 and caused immense damage to grapes there.

Grapes, it turns out, are among those plants that do draw hordes of lanternflies, which can wipe out 90 percent of a crop in a New York minute. "They suck grapes dry," said Smith, which is why the lanternfly is making vineyard operators in California and other grape-growing areas edgy. The other plant that lanternflies eat with gusto is another Asian invader, the tree of heaven, a noxious invasive tree.

Despite reduced estimates of lanternfly damage to most native trees and crops, however, they are not completely home free. "The lanternfly is a stressor, so that does not mean that it can't do damage, especially in combination with other stressors," said Urban. "From a national perspective, I am still concerned about fruit trees, for example, in the South that had experienced so much drought stress last year. The spotted lanternfly is not there yet, but in combination with drought in the future, that could still be very problematic for peach trees, for example."

NEW RESEARCH. Urban is one of the researchers mounting a counterattack against the lanternfly. By creating a clearer picture of the threat it poses, or does not, and how to approach it, new research could help pest control professionals retool and rethink their market. A blitz of requests from agricultural and forestry interests may be less likely than some managers may have anticipated. On the other hand, homeowners plagued by the horrid glop left in the lanternfly's wake could be an important customer base.

Hysteria about the lanternfly stems largely from the fact that it spreads like wildfire. Its grayish egg masses, crusted with a mud-like covering, inch-and-a-half long, and holding up to 50 eggs, can be found on trees, rocks, buildings, vehicles and outdoor equipment. They readily hitchhike on planes, trains and automobiles, a prime reason for the insect's spread. Not by accident are many service areas and rest stops along interstate highways hot spots of lanternfly infestations. Adults and nymphs also can ride along, but not far because they need to eat.

The lanternfly already has established itself in much of the eastern quarter of the country, has shown up in the Midwest and is predicted to reach California and the Pacific Northwest in a few years. If predictions hold, its range will cover most of the eastern third of the country and the West Coast, highland areas exempted. In Washington state, for example, models show the Cascade Mountains as unsuitable habitat — but good conditions exist on either side of the range below the slopes. The higher the altitude and the longitude, suggest recent studies, the less the chance the lanternfly will get a foothold. A study published in the *Journal of Economic Entomology* by a team from the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service suggests that favorable lanternfly habitat ends at 3,280 feet of elevation.

A recent paper by Urban and Penn State colleagues in the journal *Environmental Entomology* fine tunes previous research on how altitude and longitude impact potential lanternfly range. It is based on degree days (DD), a construct used by entomologists to measure the time and extent to which temperatures are within the range that allows an insect to develop through all of its stages to adulthood. Entomologists use accumulated degree days (ADD) to calculate the total heat demands

an insect needs to develop through a stage or its entire life cycle. The magic number for the lanternfly seems to be 991, according to the Penn State study.

Based on the Penn State research, higher areas of mountains in the eastern United States, such as Vermont's Green Mountains and the Adirondacks of New York, do not have sufficient ADD for lanternfly to thrive. However, pockets of lowlands and valleys within that region, such as those of the Hudson, Connecticut, Delaware and Susquehanna rivers, do qualify. The difference in DD may be hardly more than a stone's throw apart, dropping by 500 degrees in a short distance. "So my sense is that there will be some areas where there would still be pockets of potentially high population numbers and they could move into less permissive environments, especially as adults fly and move around in the late season," said Urban. "So, I think it is important for managers to remain vigilant and prepared."

Dennis D. Calvin, a co-author of the study, said that the equations developed based on the research may make a big difference in lanternfly control. "It is hoped that, by having equations that can be used to predict the timing of key life-stage activity periods, pest managers can use this information to better time monitoring, surveillance and control activities. It can save time and money by giving a smaller window to time these activities and also show how the timing of these activities varies across geographic locations," he said.

Research in Australia support the Penn State study, indicating that spotted lanternflies are unlikely to reach adulthood in colder regions, by the finding that lantern flies progress to adulthood best in places without substantial periods of below freezing temperatures. So far, the jury is out on exactly how warm late spring and summer need to be for lanternfly eggs to hatch and for nymphs to reach adulthood.

The spotted lanternfly goes through four wingless nymphal stages. The first is tick-sized but doubles in size with each stage thereafter. The first three instars are black with white spots. The last instar is red with white dots and black stripes and a half inch long. Adults are easily detectable because they are about an inch long. Adults have black abdomens with yellow bands that

become visible as they mature. Their forewings are gray with black spots, and the tips are black with gray veins, while their hind wings are red, black and white. When not flying, only forewings are visible, making them more difficult to identify, especially at long distances.

SEASONAL CONSIDERATIONS. Penn State scientists also turned up hints of other aspects of lanternfly behavior that, down the road, could help plan management. Early in the season, males predominate on red maples, which seem to draw lanternflies, with females showing up as fall and reproduction approach. The significance of egg laying close to the fall equinox suggests that its timing is not driven solely by degree days but possibly also influenced by another environmental signal, such as day length, that allows the insect to determine the season is drawing to an end.

The mix of plant species seems to impact which lanternflies chose. So does plant health, time of year, lanternfly numbers and how long it has colonized a locale. Nymphs have an especially large number of hosts, including garden perennials. Adults largely attack woody stems and mature vines, while nymphs home in on tender, young growth, paralleling the development of plants during the growing season, and any new growth.

All told, not all trees in an infested area need to be treated, only those that have lanternflies. Good advice for PMPs, or anyone, for that matter: Before leaving a site with a lanternfly infestation, check your vehicle tires for hitchhikers.

Penn State Extension has produced a Spotted Lanternfly Management Guide for both property owners and pest control professionals. Contact insecticides, it recommends, work well on adults because they often feed on the lower branches of trees where they can be easily seen and reached with sprays. Properly applied systemic insecticides can provide weeks of control by continuing to kill adults as they arrive, said the guide. Systemic chemicals are less effective on nymphs because they seldom stay for long on one plant but move to others. Experiments have shown that dormant or horticultural oil can kill eggs. Or eggs can be scraped off and killed with alcohol.

A simple trap developed by USDA researchers has gained favor for concentrating and collecting lanternfly eggs. Basically, it is a wrap of roofing shingles affixed to a tree trunk and topped by a “lamp shade” of batting material. Females will deposit eggs on the shingles. The trap has been used to detect lanternfly infestations and monitor populations, as well as for gathering egg masses to destroy.

When disposing of egg masses, cautions the Penn State guide, do not unknowingly destroy a tiny beneficial insect. The dustywing, killer of aphids and other pests, uses empty lanternfly egg cases for its own cocoon. If old egg masses contain a white material over the opening where a lanternfly has emerged, leave it alone. It has become a dustywing nursery, cautions the Penn State guide.

(PCT, October 17, 2024)

<https://www.pctonline.com/article/seek-and-destroy/>

EPA ADMIN DEFENDS FINAL HERBICIDE STRATEGY, AGENCY

Now that EPA’s new herbicide strategy is out, the agency’s administrator pledged to farmers that they will have every tool in the toolbox to support their agricultural operations.

“No farmer should wake up in the middle of a growing season to hear that a court has taken away a product that we all need for them to put food on the table. Growers, manufacturers, environmental groups across the spectrum should agree on this problem,” EPA Administrator [Michael Regan](#) told the Ag Allies Conference at the North Carolina State University McKimmon Center in Raleigh Oct. 11.

On Aug. 20, EPA released its final herbicide strategy, designed to protect more than 900 species listed as threatened or endangered. EPA said the regulations

include more options for farmers and reduced burden on applicators compared to the July 2023 draft strategy.

At the Ag Allies Conference, sponsored by the NC Chamber, Regan said the new herbicide strategy provides increased flexibility for farmers, including more options for mitigation.

He noted that EPA received thousands of comments when it released its draft strategy last year, with many reiterating the importance of protecting listed species from herbicides but also minimizing impacts on farmers and other pesticide users.

EPA notes the final strategy is more open-ended. Through new rules, pesticide users can implement mitigation measures and reduce additional mitigation needed when users either have already adopted accepted practices to reduce pesticide runoff or apply herbicides in an area where runoff potential is lower.

Giving farmers and EPA more control

In a Q&A at the [Ag Allies Conference](#), Regan said the agency’s work plans, such as the new herbicide strategy, put farmers and EPA back in the driver’s seat rather than the courts. He said that is the purpose of committing resources and time into the plans.

“With you all’s input, I think we are making progress on these work plans because we understand the pressure that exists. And what I believe is now that we have a number of work plans that we have in place that we can both agree on as well as industry, it gives us an opportunity to walk arm and arm into the halls of Congress and articulate a vision for where we need resources to be focused so that we can funnel these resources through,” Regan said.

Regan: ‘Be more surgical’

Regan believes the courts did overstep in regard to EPA compliance with the Endangered Species Act. He said there were a lot of court decisions that told EPA what they can’t do, which leaves the market constrained in terms of pesticides and herbicides.

“If you tell us we can’t do something, then that means we must do something else. I think over the past few administrations maybe EPA hasn’t engaged as productively as I feel we have this administration,” Regan said.

Regan stressed the importance of Congress taking a “surgical” approach to cutting EPA’s budget, rather than using “a blunt instrument.” He noted that with removing products farmers use, there must be workforce in place to find replacement registrations and get them out there.

“No matter what we do, we’re going to face litigations. The best way to do this is to have the scientists, the engineers, the agricultural professionals really think through a strategy to get new products on the market and when they’re litigated, those market entrants will be durable and can withstand the litigation and then the market will thrive,” he said.

“I truly believe that with these work plans that we put together to get beyond some of the past transgressions around the Endangered Species Act coupled with a very strategic approach with the right science backing new products that we all want to see in the market we can give our farmers a lot more tools to put the food on the table that all of us need.”

(FarmProgress, October 18, 2024)
<https://www.farmprogress.com/farm-policy/epa-admin-defends-final-herbicide-strategy-agency>

CEU Meetings

Please note that some of these meetings are virtual using Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Please contact the meeting host directly if you have any questions.

Date: November 7, 2024

Title: TARGET SPECIALTY PRODUCTS Oklahoma Fall Workshop 2024

Location: Grand Hotel & Casino Shawnee

Contact: Jennifer Gonzalez (800)-352-3870

<https://www.target-specialty.com/current-events>

CEU's:	Category(s):
2	1A
2	Private

Date: November 11, 2024

Title: Course #4 Pest Management in Pastures and Hayfields

Location: Seminole County OSU Extension

Contact: Coy McCorkle (405) 257-5433

<https://extension.okstate.edu/county/seminole/>

CEU's:	Category(s):
2	1A
2	Private

Date: November 13, 2024

Title: Green Country Pesticide Conference

Location: Rogers County OSU Extension

Contact: Donna Patterson (918) 923-4958

<https://extension.okstate.edu/county/rogers/>

CEU's:	Category(s):
2	1A
2	Private
2	10

Date: November 19, 2024

Title: Tree IPM for Arborists and Foresters
Location: US Environmental Protection Agency
(Virtual)

Contact: Dr. Marcia Anderson (908)-577-2982
<https://www.epa.gov/ipm/upcoming-integrated-pest-management-webinars>

CEU's:	Category(s):
1	2
1	3a

Date: November 20-22, 2024

Title: Oklahoma Nursery and Landscape Association,
Oklahoma Grows Conference

Location: Grand Hotel & Casino Shawnee
Contact: Summer Maser (405)-945-6737
<https://www.oknla.org/oklahoma-grows-conference-trade-show>

CEU's:	Category(s):
TBA	3A
TBA	3C

ODAFF Approved Online CEU Course Links

Online Pest Control Courses
<https://www.onlinepestcontrolcourses.com/>

PestED.com
<https://www.pested.com/>

Certified Training Institute
<https://www.certifiedtraininginstitute.com/>

WSU URBAN IPM AND PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
<https://pep.wsu.edu/rct/recertonline/>

CEU University
<http://www.ceuschool.org/>

Technical Learning College
<http://www.abctlc.com/>

All Star Pro Training
www.allstarce.com

Wood Destroying Organism Inspection Course
www.nachi.org/wdocourse.htm

CTN Educational Services Inc
http://ctnedu.com/oklahoma_applicator_enroll.html

Pest Network
<http://www.pestnetwork.com/>

Veseris
<http://www.pestweb.com/>

AG CEU Online
<https://agceuonline.com/courses/state/37>

Target Specialty Products Online Training
<https://www.target-specialty.com/training/online-training>

MarKev Training <https://www.markevtraining.com/>

For more information and an updated list of CEU meetings, click on this link:

<http://www.kellysolutions.com/OK/applicators/courses/searchCourseTitle.asp>

ODAFF Test Information

Testing will be done at testing centers in multiple locations around the state by PSI Services LLC.

For more information and instructions, please go to <https://bit.ly/3sF4y0x>.

Reservation must be made in advance at www.psiexams.com/ or call **855-579-4643**

PSI locations.

Oklahoma City 3800 N Classen Blvd, Ste C-20,
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Tulsa 2816 East 51st Street, Suite 101, Tulsa, OK
74105

McAlester 21 East Carl Albert Parkway (US Hwy 270),
McAlester, Oklahoma 74501

Woodward 1915 Oklahoma Ave, Suite 3, Woodward,
OK 73801

Lawton Great Plains Technology Center, 4500 West
Lee Blvd Building 300- RM 308, Lawton, OK 73505

Enid Autry Technology Center, 1201 W. Willow Rd,
Enid, OK 73703

Ponca City Pioneer Technology Center, 2101 N Ash,
Ponca City, OK 74601

If you have questions on pesticide certification. Please
email or call:

Kevin Shelton
405-744-1060 kevin.shelton@okstate.edu or

Charles Luper
405-744-5808 charles.luper@okstate.edu

**Pesticide Safety
Education Program**