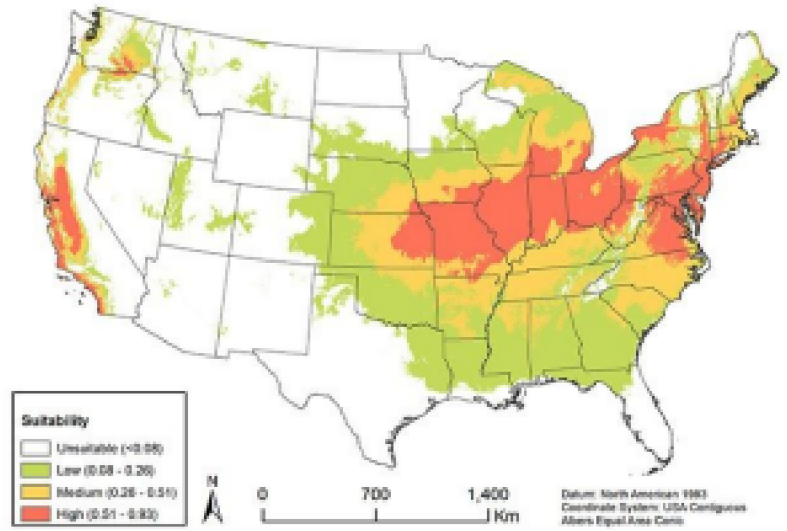


## Report Summary

### Spotted Lanternfly Education Pilot Program for Christmas Tree Growers in Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland

The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula* (White), is an invasive planthopper native to China, India, Vietnam and was first discovered in Pennsylvania in September of 2014. Within six years the pest had migrated to 26 counties in Pennsylvania and has caused substantial economic losses to a variety of agricultural crops and a nuisance pest to many homeowners. The spotted lanternfly was detected in Frederick County, Virginia, on Jan 10, 2018, in Berkeley County WV on Oct 30, 2019, and in Maryland on Oct 25, 2018. Quarantines have been established in these states with SLF having the potential to expand to all areas in the three states as well as much of the eastern United States as indicated by this map prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service. The purpose of the quarantines is to slow the spread of the spotted lanternfly to uninfested areas by regulating movement of plant material and conveyances.



The outcome of this project was to have the growers and their seasonal employees be able to properly identify all of the life stages and be confident in the identification of the spotted lanternfly. This is especially important if the grower is located in a quarantine area. A general knowledge of the insect will also be important when dealing with customers or the public in general who often ask questions when they come on the farm. These goals were met by providing an in person workshop on Sept 2021 hosted by Virginia Tech, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Va. Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services in a VA quarantine area, by creating SLF education materials specifically for Christmas tree growers, and distributing these materials in a packet to all active Christmas tree growers in MD, VA and WV. Materials in this packet included: An introductory letter, A Virginia Cooperative Extension publication ENTO-402NP - Best Management Practices for Spotted Lanternfly on Christmas Tree Farms, a spotted lanternfly experts contacts directory, a spotted lanternfly checklist for growers, and an informative poster with insect id information that is to be displayed as a reference for people working in the packing and checkout station of the farm. These resources will be used for future workshops and can be distributed to neighboring states as needed.

