

Forest Pest First Detectors: Spring 2023

Course Schedule



April 10	Course officially starts
April 11, 12 – 1pm	Live Webinar: Welcome and Conversation about Needs and Resources with Joann Garton, of Urban & Community Forestry
April 16	Complete Sections 1 & 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction and Foundational Concepts• Birds, Forest Health, and Invasive Pests
April 23	Complete Sections 3 & 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Elongate Hemlock Scale• Asian Longhorned Beetle
Apr 27, 7:00 – 8:30 pm	Live Webinar: Pests to Watch Out for: spotted lanternfly, beech leaf disease, and oak wilt. Must Register through the Nature Museum of Grafton here
April 30	Complete Sections 5 & 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emerald Ash Borer• Spotted Lanternfly and Tree of Heaven
May 7	Complete Sections 7 & 8: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jumping Worms, Oak Wilt, and Beech Leaf Disease• Taking Action
May 9, 12 – 1 pm	Live Webinar: Vermont's Forests and Climate Change Alexandra Kosiba, Extension Assistant Professor of Forestry
May 12 12 – 1 pm	Live Q&A Webinar: Next Steps and Taking Action with Ginger Nickerson, Forest Pest Education Coordinator. A chance to discuss your thoughts about putting what you learned into action in your community!
May 14	Formal course ends. You will continue to have access to all course materials until the end of 2023.

Course Access

The course is hosted on the Extension Foundation Campus online learning platform.

Live Webinars and Conversation Sessions:

Webinars will be hosted on Zoom- the link is in the course materials. I will also send out an email invitation the day before each live session. The sessions will be recorded for people who cannot attend, and links to the recordings will be sent within two days.

The exception is you must pre-register for the Pests to Watch Out for [webinar here](#).

Course Overview

This course is intended for you to use in the way that is most meaningful and helpful for you. The outline and deadlines in the schedule are suggestions only – you can work at whatever pace and order works best for you. The interactive portions of the course officially end May 14th, but **you will have access to all the materials until the end of the year.**

There is no graded material and no credits. All webinars are optional. Our goal is to give you the information to create a plan of action to help yourself and others in your community learn about forest pests and forest health.

Online Course Content

The course is broken into eight sections, each section contains:

- Videos and narrated Powerpoint presentations
- Activities to test what you learned
- Additional online resources
- Section reflection and discussion questions

Live Webinars and Conversation Sessions

- **Welcome & Kick-off Conversation (April 11, 12 – 1 pm)**
After a brief overview of the course, this webinar will be a chance to share your group's concerns about invasive forest insects, and learn about UCF's resources for assistance.
- **Pests to Watch Out For, (April 27, 7 – 8 pm)**
Ginger Nickerson will give a presentation on spotted lanternfly, beech leaf disease, and oak wilt. You **must register for this webinar** through the Natural History Museum of Grafton's [website here](#).
- **Vermont Forests and Climate Change (May 9, 12 – 1pm)**
Ali Kosiba, UVM Extension Forestry Faculty, will give an overview of how our forests are changing and what we may expect in the future, including suggestions for managing for resiliency.
- **Next Steps and Taking Action (May 12, 12 – 1 pm)**
Join Ginger Nickerson for a wrap-up conversation about your thoughts for putting this information to use in your community.

Volunteering as a Forest Pest First Detector

Because most pest infestations are discovered by alert non-professionals, we hope you will educate others about invasive forest insects, adopt an area to monitor, or help your municipality develop pest management plans. There will be a sign-up sheet at the end of the course for you to sign-up to receive the semi-monthly Forest Pest First Detector Bulletin. These will have information about volunteer opportunities.

