

Forest Pest First Detectors for Master Gardeners



Course Schedule & Important Dates

March 10: Course Opens

Week 1 (March 10 - 16)

- Sections 1-2: Introduction and Foundational Concepts, Beech Leaf Disease
- *** March 12, 7:00 – 8:30 pm: Live Webinar:** The Future of Beech Trees (Dr. Beth Brantley, Bartlett Tree Experts) and Course Introduction.

Week 2 (March 17 - 23)

- Sections 3-4: Hemlock Pests & Spotted Lanternfly
- **March 19, 7:00 – 8:00 pm: Live Webinar:** Spotted lanternfly and Tree-of-Heaven: Lessons from Massachusetts (Dr. Elizabeth Barnes, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources)

Week 3 (March 24 – 30)

- Sections 5-6: Jumping Worms, Oak Wilt, European Cherry Fruit Fly and Box Tree Moth
- March 26: **Live Webinar TBD (or break)**

Week 4 (March 31 – April 6)

- Sections 7-8: Emerald Ash Borer & Asian Longhorned Beetle
- April 2: **Live Webinar TBD (or break)**

Week 5 (April 7 – 13)

- Sections 9-10: Gardening as a Vector & Volunteering in Your Community
- **April 9, 7:00 – 8:00 pm: Live Webinar:** Best Practices to Keep Introduced Pests Out of Gardens (Ben Dillner, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets)

Week 6 (April 14 – 20)

- Final Quiz, Course Feedback & Survey, (Optional) Volunteer Sign-up
- ***April 16, 7:00 – 8:30 pm: Live Webinar:** Putting Knowledge into Action (Deb Heleba and Panel of Forest Pest First Detectors: Sue Lovering, Andrea Landsberg and Judy Wiger-Grohs)

Week 7 (April 21 – 27)

- **Wrap Up:** Finish all quizzes, discussions entries, feedback and (optional) volunteer forms.

April 27: Moderated Course Ends. Participants will have access to materials until December 2025

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** The first and last webinars (March 12th and April 16th) will be 1.5 hours, from 7:00 – 8:30. All other webinars will be for 1 hour, from 7:00 – 8:00.

While we hope you will be able to attend all the webinars, all webinars will be recorded for those who cannot attend live.