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## Monthly Newsletter

# Green Goods Wholesale Nursery

*Go Green, Feel Good!*

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## Seeing more Lady Bugs?

With the changes in weather, you may begin to spot clusters of ladybugs gathering in sheltered spots in your yard. These tiny insects and their larvae are voracious eaters and often enjoy feasting on common pests like aphids, mealybugs, and scale.

Even the South Carolina Aquarium has been seen using lady bugs as a natural alternative from pesticides to keep the plants and ecosystem healthy. They are small but mighty, and sometimes nature has its own solutions!



Lady Bug Larvae on a Nellie Stevens Holly

## Battling Mealy Bugs

### *Making a good first impression counts!*

**Mealy bugs** are a small, white, oval shaped insect and another sap sucking pest to be on the lookout for. You will often find them on the undersides of leaves; their presence tends to go unnoticed until damage and infestation have already begun. Feeding on sap can lead to stunted, distorted looking growth, and in extreme cases, even death.

Mealy bugs tend to cluster in hidden spaces, under leaves, stems, and nodes. They thrive in warm, humid environments, which means they can be a problem year-round.

Chemical spray is not necessarily the most effective form of treatment as mealybugs have a waxy coating on their body that makes them resistant to many common forms of treatment. Neem oil, or diluted dish soap in water are often more effective.

Another environmentally friendly way to combat mealy bugs is to introduce natural predators, and ladybugs just happen to be one of the best. A single ladybug can consume dozens of mealybugs per day, especially the larvae (which are more aggressive eaters). You can even mail order them, releasing ladybugs into your garden can be the first step in helping control the infestation while also supporting a healthy ecosystem where these species can thrive.



**Pro Tip:** if you plan on releasing ladybugs, only do so in the evening, and mist plants beforehand. It is important to do this when temperatures are cooler, and near the area of infestation. They do not fly after dusk.

Be on the lookout >>>

# The Spotted Lanternfly

Originally from Asia, the Spotted Lanternfly were first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has since been spotted in neighboring states including Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina – now making their way to South Carolina. While they do not pose a direct threat to humans or animals, we are beginning to see serious impacts on ornamental plants, fruit crops, even the wine industry. Early detection is critical to minimize potential impact on agriculture. Spotted Lanternflies damage plants by piercing branches and limbs on trees to feed on sap, leaving a sticky substance behind called Honeydew.



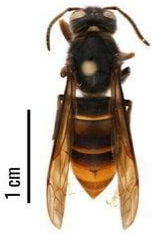
Honeydew is a sugary substance excreted when insects feed on a plant to extract sap. The substance encourages the growth of black sooty mold and attracts other unwanted pests like ants, bees, and wasps, to feed on it. Adults are most active from summer through fall, with females laying eggs September through October, often laying their eggs on the same tree they fed on. They can become a nuisance as they reproduce quickly though, laying eggs in masses on any hard vertical surface-



Photo from ClemsonNews – Invasive spotted lanternfly detected in South Carolina

This includes fences, cars, furniture, and lawn equipment. Despite their name, Spotted Lanternfly are poor fliers, typically only able to travel a couple of miles during their lifetime. Younger insects, known as Nymphs, are black with white spots and develop the striking bright red as they mature. Adults begin to emerge in late summer and often collect in large masses, on tree trunks. If you see a Spotted Lanternfly, you should squash on sight.

Yellow-legged Hornet  
(*Vespa velutina*)



European Hornet  
(*Vespa crabro*)



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
EXTENSION

Important differences on Invasive Yellow-legged Hornet vs. Native European Hornet | Justin Ballew – U of Georgia Extension

## Yellow Legged Hornet

Yellow Legged Hornets are aggressive predators known to feed on honeybees, flies, and even other wasps. Incredibly, a single nest can consume up to **24 pounds** of insects in just one season. This level of predation poses a serious threat to pollinators and the ecosystems that depend on them. Understanding the unique behavior and characteristics is crucial in reporting this species.

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## Invasive Species Awareness

*While European Hornets are considered naïve in many areas, the Yellow Legged (Asian) Hornet is an invasive species and a growing concern for our ecosystem. These two may look similar but there are key differences. The Yellow Legged Hornet has a dark head, black yellow striped abdomen, and most notably- the bright yellow legs; a feature that sets it apart from its European counterpart.*

Nearly 2 years after the first spotting of the Yellow Legged Hornet in South Carolina, The Clemson University Department of Plant Industry has launched a new tool to help the public identify and report the invasive species. Public participation is crucial as your reports are the #1 way to protect pollinators and prevent potential environmental devastation.

The newly updated Clemson University website now features easy to follow videos on how to use the reporting system, and how to build your own trap.

For more information go to:

[Clemson launches new yellow-legged hornet reporting system](#) | [Clemson News](#)



Photo from Justin Ballew | U of Georgia Extension



# Biodiversity

*Are we planting too many trees? Not at all. But we can plant *too many* of the same trees. For forests to thrive well into the future, it is time to think about greater diversity and more resilient infrastructure.*

Urban trees are more than just an attractive addition to streets – they are crucial to creating a comfortable livable space. They reduce the urban heat island effect by providing shade, cooling the air, absorbing storm runoff, and offer essential habitats for birds, insects and other wildlife.

Where it may seem like ‘the more the merrier’ this is not always the case. There is a challenge in how urban trees are being managed, not just from pollution or climate change- but from lack of diversity.



Across the United States our canopies are dominated by a small percentage of tree species. While this makes maintenance easy short term, it leaves other trees at risk for pests and disease. If a single invasive insect or fungal disease targets a dominant species, entire blocks can be wiped out within just a few years.

Diversity doesn’t eliminate the risk of pests; they will still be there- but it will prevent the chance of a huge outbreak becoming a city or statewide issue. In a well-diversified forest, the impact of pests remains manageable.

Many cities, especially downtown areas- are filled with repetitive planting patterns from decades ago. Rows of the same trees that have been planted for rapid growth are now facing threats from invasive species with a change in climate. What was once seen as practical can now be a magnet for pests.

Often, what is available comes down to market trends and consumer demand. When some trees will take years to mature and develop, they will often be overlooked in favor of a faster growing alternative.



## The 10-20-30 Rule

Urban foresters and arborists have recommended following the 10-20-30 rule:

- No more than **10%** of an urban forest should be made up of a single species
- No more than **20%** from a single genus, and
- No more than **30%** from a single family.



## Ginkgo biloba

Also known as the maidenhair tree, Ginkgo are a remarkable ancient species, being the only survivor of plant groups from 150 million years ago. This tree has stood the test of time, making it highly adaptable and resistant to disease. Ginkgo’s can grow upwards of 100’ with distinct two lobed leaves that will turn a stunning yellow each fall before dropping for the season.

At the nursery, we currently have 15gallon Ginkgo’s available. Measuring 10’ by 2” – They are an ideal choice for those looking for a tree with history and beauty.



*Q: Why has it been harder to find Dogwoods?*

*A: Dogwoods are increasingly difficult to source due to a variety of pests and diseases;*



Most notably Anthracnose and Canker. Anthracnose, a fungal disease with several variants, is typically seen on flowers, leaves, and branches as irregular spots or blotches. In severe cases, new growth will emerge distorted and wrinkled. This is a disease that thrives in moist, shaded environments and spreads most easily throughout the summer months, often targeting newly planted trees. Because of these challenges, and the high risk of plant loss, many growers are hesitant to cultivate them, making them harder to find in the nursery trade. Some good alternatives are Saucer Magnolias and either Chinese or American Fringe trees.



# The 2025 Landscape Show

*The Landscape Show is taking place in Orlando from August 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, featuring more than 400 companies and 250,000 square feet of exhibit space. Joe and Spencer will be going and representing Green Goods Nursery from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. We hope to see you there!*



**Our Nursery Cat >>>**

## Meet Barley!

*Barley is a feral outdoor cat that is still a bit standoffish, he was found at a local restaurant before being relocated to the Nursery. You'll mostly see him hiding out in the garage, but he is friendly! ☺*



Contact us at **843-784-5600**

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