



Be on the lookout for Spotted Lanternfly



Native to Asia, Spotted Lanternflies were discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014. They are now found in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, New Jersey, Connecticut, and locations throughout New York State. Can Pound Ridge be far behind?

Spotted Lanternflies don't bite or sting. But they fly, hop and swarm, making it unpleasant to be outside in heavily infested areas.

Spotted Lanternflies feed on a wide variety of plants and leave a sticky residue that promotes mold and fungi growth. They pose a serious threat to New York's agricultural and forestry industries.

For more information, and how to report sightings, go to: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/spottedlanternfly>



Egg Masses, Visible September - May

Sometime before the first freeze, adult Spotted Lanternflies lay their eggs on almost any outdoor surface, including buildings, vehicles and outdoor furniture. Egg masses are notoriously difficult to spot as they look like a blotch of dried mud.



Nymph Stages, Visible April – October

Nymphs cannot fly, but they jump fast and far. They go through several stages:

- When nymphs emerge, they are soft and white.
- Later, they change to black with white spots.
- Late in the season, nymphs are red and black with white spots.



Adult, Visible July – November

Adult Spotted Lanternflies fly, although not far or gracefully. They puncture trees with piercing mouthparts and suck the sap. Trees with extensive Lanternfly damage appear to weep as sap leaks from holes. Lanternflies excrete a sticky substance called honeydew, which can drip from badly diseased trees.

What Can You Do?

Recognize them! Know their life cycles! Kill them!

EGG MASSES:

- Look for eggs masses on trees, buildings and outdoor furniture in the fall and early spring.
- To destroy egg cases, scrape them into a baggie or other container filled with rubbing alcohol, seal, and dispose. Or, use a scraper to squish them (press down hard).

NYMPHS:

- When nymphs emerge, spray them with a solution of rubbing alcohol and water or insecticidal soap.
- Wrap heavily infected trees with sticky paper or double-sided tape. To avoid causing problems for beneficial insects or other wildlife, keep the tape at least 4 inches off the ground.

ADULTS:

- Squish, squash and stomp! Although they fly, they don't go far or fast. You can get them.

Recognize and Remove the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

The invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), is a host plant for Spotted Lanternflies. During some portion of their life stages, the insects seem to show a preference for it.



The Tree of Heaven has:

- pinnately compound leaves (a central stem to which leaflets are attached on each side) with 11 or more pointed leaflets per leaf,
- fuzzy, reddish-brown twigs,
- clusters of light green seeds on the female plant, and,
- an unpleasant smell when leaves and twigs are crushed, which is often described as rancid peanut butter.

The tree is a high pollen producer and a source of allergy in some people.

Removal methods: It is best to pull up *Ailanthus* trees when they're small. Be sure to remove the entire root. For larger trees, cut the trunk and apply an herbicide to the stump. Otherwise the tree will produce side shoots. For very large trees, employ a reputable tree company.



Plant Milkweed?

Some suggest that Lanternflies are especially attracted to Milkweed. It is toxic to them as it is to most other insects. While more study about its effect on Spotted Lanternfly is needed, at the very least, Milkweed will help support our struggling Monarch butterflies.