

Managing Spotted Lanternfly (SLF)

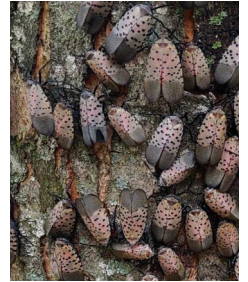


What is SLF?

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest that feeds on many different plants. Its favorites are tree-of-heaven, grapevines, maples, walnuts and willows.

Why is SLF a problem?

SLF feeds on plant sap and excretes a sugary substance called honeydew. This can be a nuisance and attract stinging insects. When feeding on grapevines, SLF can deplete nutrient reserves, weakening or even killing the plants.



SLF Lifecycle: SLF has one generation per year consisting of four nymph stages, an adult stage, and overwinter as eggs in an egg mass.

Nymph:

Nymphs hatch from egg masses in spring, as temperatures get warm. They then molt through nymphal stages, which are black with white spots, and eventually gain red coloration.



Adult:

Nymphs transition to adults around late July in New York State, followed by mating and laying eggs through the fall



Egg Mass:

SLF begin laying eggs in early fall until freezing temperatures cause the adults to die off. Eggs persist throughout winter.



Help Manage SLF First, care should be taken to prevent moving SLF or egg masses to a new location. If present in the landscape, there is no “one size fits all” strategy. Here are five solutions to consider:

1 Trap them:

Circle traps can be purchased or made at home. Install and monitor traps on host plants like tree-of-heaven. If using adhesive traps, use a screen barrier to prevent harm to beneficial insects and birds. Scan QR for steps to make a circle trap:



2 Use a vacuum:

Use a vacuum to collect SLF. Dispose of SLF after a day in a sealed bag.

3 Scrape egg masses:

Destroy lanternfly egg masses by scraping them into a sealable bag. Eggs can be found from September-June.

4 Tree-of-heaven:

Some may want to remove tree-of-heaven (SLF’s preferred host), however simply cutting the tree will encourage new shoots from the roots and trunk. Consider consulting with a tree care professional for proper management utilizing herbicides.

5 Treat them

Since SLF rarely cause damage to landscape trees, treatment is not necessary for the health of the tree, but if they become a nuisance, approved pesticides can be used.

Learn more about spotted lanternfly:

go.cornell.ipm.org/spotted-lanternfly

