

October 13, 2022

## Have You Seen Spotted Lanternfly Egg Masses? (part 4) Susan Emhardt-Servidio Horticulturist, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County

The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) continues to dominate the inquiries to the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County in Toms River. As we are in early fall, we are beginning to see larger numbers of adult SLF on maples and Tree of Heaven. They feed on the plant sap of these trees, wild grapevine and other landscape vegetation. This invasive insect is a threat to vineyards and may stress other crops for which New Jersey is known. Let us dispel some of the concerns residents have expressed- Some important facts about these insect include:



CONCERN: Hazardous to the health of humans and pets: **FALSE**.

FACT: There are no known health concerns with the SLF to humans or pets. The SLF do not bite humans or pets. They are plant hoppers and their food source is plant sap. Most animals are not consuming the SLF in the quantities that would make the animal ill.

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/spotted-lanternfly/faq.php>

CONCERN: They are going to invade my house and siding this winter. **FALSE**.

FACT: The adult Lanternflies will be killed by the frosts we should be seeing soon. The egg masses laid on siding and other surfaces should be scraped off and smashed to lessen the amount of nymphs that will hatch next year. The SLF feed on live plants. They do not chew or bore into homes, decks and other structures. <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/spotted-lanternfly/faq.php>

CONCERN: I need to spray and kill the adult SLF now: **TRUE and FALSE**.

FACT: True, insecticides can be effective in certain scenarios, but other options should be considered first. Smashing and killing reachable adult SLF and egg masses are appropriate for those reachable SLF. The adults will be killed by the frost. False, you do not need to spray insecticides NOW. As per the chart below, February-April would be the time to use a dormant rate of horticultural oil effectively on the eggs. Otherwise in late May, the eggs will hatch and

non-toxic traps can be used to capture the nymphs and interrupt the life cycle. Most homeowners are not equipped to spray large mature trees. A licensed tree expert can assess if insecticide is warranted based on the homeowner’s situation. Licensed tree experts in NJ can be found at <https://treeexperts.org>.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
Don't move any life stage of SLF												
Scrape and destroy eggs												
Spray eggs with dormant rate of horticultural spray oil												
Use circle traps												
Contact insecticide applications (after hatch and avoid bloom)												
Systemic application of imidacloprid (after bloom)												
Systemic application of dinotefuran (after bloom)												

Graphic from Penn State’s Spotted Lanternfly Management Guide

**CONCERN:** I found 50 of the Spotted Lanternfly on my 30-year-old maple. These insects are killing my tree! **NOT QUITE**

**FACT:** Small quantities of SLF have not been observed killing mature healthy trees. When trees are already stressed due to unfavorable environmental conditions, the SLF in large numbers, may weaken a tree further. SLF have only been connected with death of Tree-of-Heaven, grapevines and walnut seedlings.

For more information about Spotted Lanternflies and the control options please visit: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/pests-diseases/spotted-lanternfly/homeowner-resources/> and <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/spotted-lanternfly/>.

We can also answer questions at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension at 1623 Whitesville Rd, Toms River, by phone 732-349-1246 or by email at [oceanag@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:oceanag@njaes.rutgers.edu).