

Seasonal Views



WINTER:
Eggs

Photo: Emma Swackhammer, Penn State University, bugwood.org



SPRING:
Nymph



SUMMER:
Nymph



FALL:
Adult

Egg mass stages

Uncovered egg mass Partially covered egg mass Covered egg mass Old hatched egg mass



This array from Penn State shows how egg masses present. Photos by Heather Leach.



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THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY (SLF)

SLF is a serious invasive pest that impacts hardwood trees and agriculture. It is not harmful to humans or animals but can reduce quality of life, enjoyment of the outdoors, and is a major threat to NJ's farms. Adult SLFs will not survive past winter, however, females lay 30 to 50 eggs at a time and coat them with a protective layer to survive the winter. *The NJ Dept of Agriculture encourages residents to destroy egg masses in the fall, winter, and early spring before hatching begins. After hatching, adults should be stomped out.*

**Make it your mission
to identify and destroy
the spotted lanternfly**



Alpine Environmental Commission

Where can egg masses, nymphs, adults be found?

A highly preferred host plant for the SLF is the Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*. SLFs also feed on a variety of other plants including fruit, ornamental and woody trees, vegetables, herbs, grains and vines. When it comes to egg laying, they favor the Tree of Heaven but can choose almost any hard, flat surface; egg masses can be found stuck to the sides of trees, houses, patio furniture, telephone poles, stones and even cars. They are usually rectangular and appear cream-colored at first, then darkening to gray or light brown.



(Left) Unhatched egg masses
(Right) Mass with some hatched eggs
SLF egg masses are about 1.5" long

Be aware that there are look-alikes so train your eyes. For example, as shown below, Lichen on tree branches often have a similar shape, size, and color.



What does the Tree of Heaven look like?

The Tree of Heaven, an ornamental but invasive species, grows rapidly and can reach 80' in height and up to 6' in diameter but the shape of young trees can resemble bushes.

The bark is smooth and brownish-green when young, eventually turning light brown to gray, and resembles the skin of a cantaloupe.

Leaves are pinnately compound (i.e. a central stem with leaflets attached on each side), grow to a length of 1'- 4' and can have 10 to 40 leaflets. At the base of each smooth-edged leaflet are 1 or 2 protruding bumps called glandular teeth. Crushed leaves and plant parts give off a strong, offensive odor. The tree produces large clusters of small yellowish-green flowers in late spring, female trees produce wing-tipped seed pods beginning in late summer.



There are look-alikes. Some species such as sumac, ash, and black walnut have similarly shaped leaves. The Tree of Heaven can be distinguished from these native species by its fuzzy, reddish-brown twigs and clusters of light green seed pods.

What you can do to destroy the SLF:

EGG MASSES - Scrape & Destroy

Systemic sprays are not effective. Instead, if you find egg masses, use a plastic card, putty knife, or similar tool to scrape them into a bag or container filled with rubbing alcohol, hand sanitizer, or soapy water and then dispose of the bag in the trash.

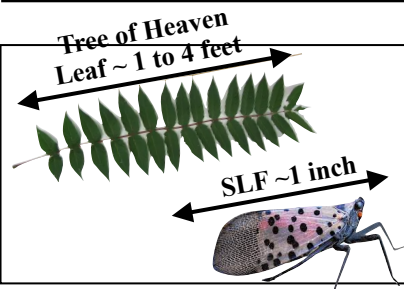


Typically, only a small % of egg masses can be removed in this manner because most masses will be located higher than 10' on a tree. Please use caution when reaching up or using a ladder.

ADULTS - Stomp them Out



For more info, see 'Homeowner Resources' on NJ State Dept of Agriculture link below



Resources - Penn State Extension: <https://extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven>

<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-what-to-look-for>

NJ State Dept of Agriculture: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/pests-diseases/spotted-lanternfly/>

- Survey your property
- Remove egg masses
- Stomp out adults
- Be on the lookout for 'hitchhikers' . . . Spotted lanternfly can be spread long distances by the movement of infested material, such as fire wood, or other items containing egg masses.