

Spotted Lanternfly Alert

According to the NJ Department of Agriculture, the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) remains a serious threat to New Jersey and the United States. **As such, all counties in NJ are currently under quarantine.** In Cranbury, nymphs are just beginning to emerge. While SLF have no known natural enemies and are extremely difficult to control, there are still actions you can take to minimize the spread of this invasive pest on your property.



Inspect your property for Tree of Heaven

Tree of Heaven (TOH) is the preferred habitat of SLF and is easy to identify at this time of year by its distinct compound leaves – leaves consisting of leaflets. A single leaf may be up to 4 feet long with as many as 40 pointed leaflets. At the base of each leaflet are one or two protruding bumps called glandular teeth. When crushed, leaflets will have an offensive odor described by some as “*rancid peanut butter*”. Do not try to eliminate TOH by pulling it out, cutting it down or mowing it over. This will not destroy its root system and will only exacerbate the problem. **Wait until summer to eradicate TOH!**



Early Nymph

Inspect your property for SLF nymphs

When hatched, a Lanternfly nymph will be black with white spots on its body and legs and approximately 1/8" in length. After molting in July, they turn red and black with white spots. Nymphs have no wings and cannot fly but are strong jumpers and will jump when prodded or frightened.



Late Nymph

Try to eradicate SLF nymphs

An environmentally effective method of killing nymphs is to coat them with a spray of **Neem Oil**, a naturally occurring pesticide found in seeds from the neem tree. Note that this oil is also toxic to bees if they are coated. **Be sure to use a focused spray on SLF only when bees are not active.** This product is available on Amazon but you may wish to ask a Pest Control professional to perform this task. As an alternative to spraying, banding trees with sticky tape will trap nymphs as they climb each day. **These traps must be protected with a raised guard of wire or screening to prevent other creatures from getting stuck.** Circle traps (slightly more complicated) are considered to be more effective.



Eradicate Tree of Heaven in the summer

While eradicating TOH may not fully eliminate SLF, removing it from your property is still beneficial. It is a non-native, extremely invasive plant that will draw swarms of adult SLF to your property by late summer. **Contact a Pest Control professional to do this.** Let them know you have TOH on your property and that it must be treated on July 1 or shortly thereafter. Specify that **triclopyr** (practically non-toxic to bees) should be applied to all TOH, including saplings and suckers, to ensure that the entire root system is eliminated.

Further Information

Detailed information on New Jersey's Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine along with a year-long strategy for managing the spread of SLF can be found by scanning the QR code on the right or going to <https://mullenpj.wixsite.com/lanternfly>. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Cranbury Environmental Commission at 609-664-3130.

