

Spotted Lanternfly Nymphs Have Emerged!

This is the third in a series of alerts to keep you informed on the spread of Spotted Lanternfly in Cranbury and steps that can be taken to control this invasive pest in a safe and environmentally effective manner.

In our last alert, you were asked to inspect your property for the Tree of Heaven and for Lanternfly egg masses, and to destroy all egg masses before they hatched. You were also warned not to try to eliminate the Tree of Heaven by cutting it down or mowing it over. This will not destroy its root system and will only exacerbate the problem. **That warning still stands. Wait until the summer to eradicate the Tree of Heaven.** So what can you do now?

Step 1: Confirm that Tree of Heaven is on your property

The Tree of Heaven is very easy to identify at this time of year by its distinct compound leaves – leaves consisting of leaflets. A single leaf may be 1 to 4 feet long with as many as 40 pointed leaflets. At the base of each leaflet are one to two protruding bumps called glandular teeth. When crushed, leaflets and all plant parts will have an offensive odor described by some as “rancid peanut butter”.

Step 2: Inspect your property for Lanternfly 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. If nymphs are on your property, notify the NJ Department of Agriculture using this website: <https://tinyurl.com/3r9zekba>.

Step 3: Try to eradicate the nymphs

Most of the manual methods for killing nymphs (tree banding, squashing, etc) are only minimally effective. The most environmentally effective method is to spray the nymphs directly with **Neem Oil**, a naturally occurring pesticide found in seeds from the neem tree. It's not a foolproof way of killing nymphs, but it's practically non-toxic to birds, mammals, bees and plants. It's available on Amazon but you may wish to have a Pest Control professional perform this step.

Step 4: Prepare to eradicate the Tree of Heaven

The most effective way of controlling the Lanternfly is to eradicate the Tree of Heaven. **Contact a Pest Control professional to do this.** Let them know you have Tree of Heaven and Lanternfly on your property and that the Tree of Heaven must be treated on July 1 or shortly thereafter. Specify that **triclopyr** (via foliar spray or "hack and squirt") should be applied to all saplings, suckers, female Tree of Heaven and all male Tree of Heaven 8" in diameter or less. **Dinotefuran** should be applied to the base and roots of all male Tree of Heaven larger than 8" in diameter to create "trap trees" to attract and kill adult Lanternfly.

Next Steps:

In July, the Environmental Commission will issue another alert describing control measures that should be taken in the late summer and early fall. For detailed information on the Spotted Lanternfly and the Tree of Heaven, along with a full description of the year-long control strategy to prevent the spread of these invasives, click on this website: <https://mullenpj.wixsite.com/lanternfly>

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Cranbury Environmental Commission at jgolisano@cranbury-nj.com or at 609-664-3130.



Early Nymph



Late Nymph