

Invasive Species Alert: Spotted Lanternfly



The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*, is an invasive insect species native to Asia. It was first discovered in the United States in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 2014 and has since spread to New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, Connecticut and Ohio. *Cranbury residents should be aware that SLF has been sighted in our township.*

This insect has the potential to greatly impact agricultural crops and hardwood trees. SLF feeds on sap from over 70 different plants, including grapevines, maples, black walnut, and other important species in New Jersey. It has a strong preference for economically important plants and the feeding damage significantly stresses the plants which can lead to decreased health and potentially death.

What You Can Do



Get Informed: To learn more about SLF and what you can do to prevent its further spread, please visit the NJ Department of Agriculture Spotted Lanternfly Program website: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/pests-diseases/spotted-lanternfly/about/>.

Report Sightings: The NJ Department of Agriculture is asking homeowners to report spotted lanternfly sightings through their online reporting tool: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/pests-diseases/spotted-lanternfly/#reporting-tool>.

Remove Host Trees: Spotted lanternfly strongly prefers the ailanthus tree, also known as “Tree of Heaven.” This plant is also considered an invasive species, and is easily mistaken for staghorn sumac, a native that grows in similar soils and areas. ***For help identifying the SLF host tree, homeowners are encouraged to contact the Cranbury Shade Tree Commission (jgolisano@cranbury-nj.com, 609-664-3130).***

