

East Windsor Township Spotted Lanternfly Alert

The East Windsor Environmental Commission wants you to know that this past summer's excessive rainfall and extended warm weather conditions have contributed to the population explosion of the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) *Lycorma delicatula*. It is an invasive plant hopper native to China, India, and Vietnam and was first discovered in the United States in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 2014. The Spotted Lanternfly has spread to other counties in Pennsylvania, as well as the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, Connecticut and Ohio.

This insect has the potential to greatly impact agricultural crops and hardwood trees. The SLF feeds on the plant sap of many different plants including grapevines, maples, black walnut, and other important plants in New Jersey. While it does not harm humans or animals, it can reduce the quality of life for people living in heavily infested areas. SLF is a serious invasive pest with a healthy appetite for our plants and it can be a significant nuisance, affecting the quality of life and enjoyment of the outdoors. The Spotted Lanternfly uses its piercing-sucking mouthpart to feed on sap from over 70 different plant species. It has a strong preference for economically important plants and the feeding damage significantly stresses the plants.

As the SLF feeds, the insect excretes honeydew (a sugary substance) which can attract bees, wasps, and other insects. The honeydew also builds up and promotes the growth for sooty mold (fungi), which can cover the plant, forest understories, patio furniture, cars, and anything else found below the SLF feeding.

If you see a Spotted Lanternfly, help us Stomp it Out! To report sightings please email the New Jersey Department of Agriculture at SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov.

