

Ringwood Environmental Commission

October 2021 Bulletin – Spotted Lanternfly

Ringwood is host to dozens of invasive species. The Ringwood Environmental Commission works with local and state resources to identify the species that have the greatest effect on our borough and especially the homeowners. The last three years we have focused on gypsy moths and the emerald ash borer beetle. A new threat in our area is the spotted lanternfly.



Background

The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive, non-native planthopper that spread rapidly since it was first identified in Pennsylvania in 2014. While the bug is harmless to humans and animals, it can cause extensive damage to plants. This is due to its propensity to consume more sap than it can handle and excreting the majority of it. This secretion, known as "honeydew," can cause mold to grow or attract other insects, causing severe damage to the tree. The SLF's population can increase to the point where it becomes a nuisance similar to a gypsy moth infestation.

Currently, half the state's counties are under quarantine, but Passaic county has not reached that designation yet. This insect is spreading rapidly and the experts recommend some steps to take now to help slow the spread.

Steps to Take

In the autumn, the SLF will deposit egg masses on trees. Homeowners can scrape these off and double bag them for disposal. Alternatively, the egg masses can be destroyed with alcohol, bleach or hand sanitizer.

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



If you see adult SLFs, it is recommended to stomp on them. You can also protect your trees by contacting a local tree expert to assist with banding or pesticide application.



More Information or to Report a Sighting
<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/program/pests-diseases/spotted-lanternfly/>

Hotline: 1-833-422-3284 (4BADBUG)