

Spotted Lanternfly: Life Cycle, Management, and Potential Impacts for Natural Areas

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Question: I would also like to find out how to answer questions from the public who already have a terrible problem but they do NOT have any trees in their living area to take any control methods such as eliminating Tree of Heaven. They cannot go out on a deck or patio due to infestations. What can they do?

Answer: They may consider using contact pesticides as recommended here: <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-for-homeowners>.

Question: Are there known systemic treatments (micro/macro injection, etc) that have shown to be particularly effective? This would apply to us in the care of Witness/Heritage trees

Answer: Dinotefuran and imidacloprid are two commonly used systemic insecticides that work well against adult SLF. Here is a resource that includes information about systemic products: <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-for-landscape-professionals>.

Question: Is there funding for homeowners without tree removal expertise?

Answer: For removal or pesticide applications, homeowners may choose to work with a professional instead of relying on their own expertise. Here's a resource on choosing a qualified practitioner: <https://extension.psu.edu/choosing-a-qualified-pest-management-or-lawn-care-company>. And here is a directory of ISA-certified arborists: <https://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist>. Specific funding assistance is highly variable depending on the scale of management (invasive removal from a woodlot vs. backyard management, for example) and local conditions (municipalities may initiate programs specific to the local area, for example). Funding landscapes change quickly, and I don't have a definitive list of assistance options.

Question: Are private residents required to get a permit to move outside quarantine (i.e. transport outdoor furniture, etc. to moving destination--which could be anywhere across the country...)?

Answer: No, only businesses are required to get a permit to move within the quarantine or across quarantine boundaries in PA. Private residents are encouraged to use a checklist, do inspections, etc., but they don't have the same legal/regulatory requirements as businesses. They would only face regulatory penalties if they intentionally moved a life stage out of the quarantine. Public education and awareness are the primary strategies for encouraging public due diligence. If your question is about "moving" as in "moving to a new home," then the moving company would be subject to the regulatory requirement and should be permitted.

Question: In regards to scraping egg masses, is it an effective tool if they are also being laid up in the canopy of the tree, etc?

Answer: No. You're right; egg mass scraping is limited to accessible zones, but every little bit helps.

Question: Is there any evidence of SLF feeding on conifers?

Answer: Researchers are currently working to develop a ranked list of preferred hosts. Generally speaking, conifers are not among the most preferred host species. SLF will use conifers for structure (climbing, egg laying, etc.) but don't usually feed on them.

Question: Has larger number of egg masses been associated with each female being able to lay more egg masses per generation

Answer: Sorry if I wasn't clear about that. Yes, an individual female may lay multiple egg masses in one year before dying. Each egg mass has 30-50 eggs.