

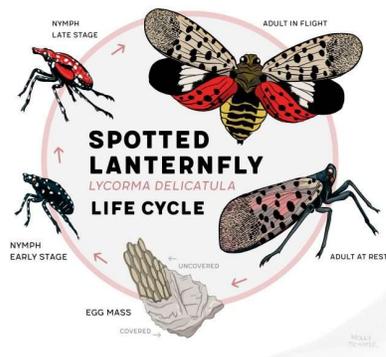
They're back: Spotted Lanternflies (SLFs for short), which in recent years have invaded the Northeast, are getting ready for another infestation in our area. Right now you can spot their “nymphs,” which look like this:



on tree trunks and other surfaces. When they mature, they become those moth like insects with snazzy brown and red wings and black polka dots.



Here's what they look like at each life stage . . .



. . . and here's what you need to know.

These insects (actually “plant-hoppers,” not moths) are **VERY DESTRUCTIVE**, primarily to vineyards and flowering ornamental landscape plants.

They're causing such a problem that quarantine protocols have been set in place in many New Jersey counties, and they're already causing problems in East Brunswick.

Beyond stomping on any that you see on the ground (which is tricky, because they leap so fast), there are other things you can do to protect the vegetation on your property, as well as New Jersey's agriculture. Go to:

<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/pests-diseases/spotted-lanternfly/>

and click "Homeowner Resources".

For insecticide info:

<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-and-pesticide-safety>

[For non-toxic tactics, on the PSU website click "Manage" on the far right photo, then the blue "Learn How to Slow the Spread" banner near the top of the next page.]

Before you try homemade sprays, check out:

<https://extension.psu.edu/avoid-home-remedies-to-control-spotted-lanternfly>

[While a mixture of dish detergent and water is said to be effective on the bug itself, if not mixed in the correct ratio, it can harm plants.]

ONE THING EVERYONE CAN DO IS TRY NOT TO UNKNOWINGLY BRING THEM IN FROM QUARANTINED AREAS (see map at the first link). These are great "hitchhikers," coming in on Christmas trees and other products from affected areas, as well as on vehicles.

Inspect all the surfaces and crevices of your vehicle for the insects, either in adult or immature stage, and check around your yard for egg sacs (pictures are at the link) and the sooty black color of twigs, branches and fruit where they hang out. They can also cause a shiny look on leaves that aren't usually glossy-looking.

