

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Spotted Lanternfly Hatch is Here

Spring is here. Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) hatch is beginning this month. New research from Penn State and the USDA has found Spotted Lanternflies not to be as deadly to our trees and forests as first thought. For homeowners, SLF are more of a nuisance pest with their numbers, the sticky honeydew they release as they feed, and the black sooty mold that grows on the honeydew.



What homeowners can do? Be on the lookout for the tiny black nymph with white spots. The nymphs will be on walkabout in search of tender new growth of roses, wild or cultivated, some herbaceous perennials, grapes, and other favorites. Now is the time to place your sticky bands with wildlife barriers or circle traps on the trees on which you see egg masses or trees that SLF fed on last year. For smaller plant material like roses, keep a look out for the nymphs and smooch what you can.



If your young plants are overwhelmed with nymphs, as a last resort, you can use some contact insecticide products containing insecticidal soap, natural pyrethrins, or neem oil. Always refer to the label for use of insecticides. The label is the law. Do not spray plants during their bloom period to minimize sprays contacting non-targeted insects like bees and other pollinators. We do not recommend using homemade remedies.

While we may not be rid of the SLF soon, our local fauna is catching on to help us control these invaders. Some of the observed top predators of the SLF are chickens, cardinals, catbirds, blue jays, tufted titmouse, praying mantis, yellow jackets, orb-weaver spiders, wheel bugs, and ants. Research is ongoing for use of biological controls like parasitic wasps and native fungi that are environmentally friendly to help control SLF populations.

For more information about the Spotted Lanternfly, please check out Rutgers Spotted Lanternfly page at

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

Questions? Visit our office at 1623 Whitesville Rd in Toms River. Contact us at 732-349-1246 or follow us

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