



## WILLISTOWN PARKS & RECREATION

### STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN

## Spotted Lanternfly: Action Needed!

The Spotted Lanternfly has arrived in and around Willistown! This Stewardship Bulletin will fill you in on what you need to know about this #BadBug. This pest has arrived in many Willistown yards, big and small and has been confirmed in our cherished parks and preserves. In order to control this invasive insect, homeowners must be vigilant throughout the year. If the pattern of the bug continues, the next couple of years in Willistown are going to be challenging ones. The *Spotted Lanternfly—What To-Do!* article contains important information and it is followed by the easy to read, quick-reference Penn State Extension Pest Management Calendar. Let's squash this #BadBug!

### *Spotted Lanternfly—What To-Do!*

There's a lot of to-do about the Spotted Lanternfly as it shows itself in Willistown, and the attention is well deserved! Area residents are busy posting pictures and questions on local Facebook community pages and other social media. It is critical to educate yourself about what you can do to stem the Lanternfly's spread and control the damage in our community and beyond. See page 3 of this bulletin for a management calendar by month!

#### What are they?

The Spotted Lanternfly is also known as Lanternmoth, but it is neither a fly nor a moth. It is an invasive insect, a planthopper native to China, India, and Vietnam, that spread to Korea where it is a major pest. It feeds on over 70 species of trees and plants and is a significant threat to Pennsylvania's agricultural, ornamental landscape, tree-fruit, and hardwood industries that generate nearly \$18 billion annually...and your backyard. Early detection and control are vital!

#### What do they look like now?

The nymphs in early spring start out black with white dots and turn red with white dots and black stripes. You will see them through September. The adults have black bodies with gray roof shaped wings when closed, camouflaging them well. You'll see bright red on their hind wings when they are open. They are visible from July through the first week of freezing temperatures in December.

#### What do they do?

They are sap-suckers looking for plants to feed on. They do not bite or sting and will not harm your pets, house, patio furniture, etc.

#### What do I do?

Penn State Extension is asking for area residents to call the hotline to help them track the movement of the bug, its population density, and migration habits. Contact 1-888-422-3359 or [go to extension.psu.edu](http://go.to/extension.psu.edu). Report to our local tracking system as well, info below.

#### At the Park, Trail, or Preserve

Please help us by contacting Mary at [mhundt@willistown.pa.us](mailto:mhundt@willistown.pa.us) with your sightings of adult Lanternflies and

egg masses. Provide the property, specific location, and any action you took. There are SLF sanitizer dispenser stations at Fox Hollow Trail, Okehocking and Serpentine Preserves, and Greentree Park.

### **Local Lanternfly Data Collection**

Willistown Parks & Recreation is collaborating with West Chester University's Spotted Lanternfly "Citizen Science Data Collection Project" created by grad student Gabrielle Long. Will you help us track this nasty bug as it moves through our area? Please [visit the GIS Story Map](#) here or by searching Spotted Lanternfly Management on our website. The Story Map includes pertinent information and graphics about the Lanternfly, and you'll find the sightings map under "Student Work."

### **Phone App Makes Reporting Easy!**

If you'd like to make a report from your smartphone, the SLF Data Collection App allows you to report your sighting and provide additional information. [Visit the app](#), Scan the QR Code to the right or visit our website under Spotted Lanternfly Management any time to access the code and report your sighting. There are free QR readers available for download in your mobile app store. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors!



### **Scrape the Eggs**

From now through end of May, when the Spotted Lanternfly eggs hatch, monitor your equipment, trees, decks, structures including your houses, and rocks in your yards and those in your favorite parkland destinations for egg masses. Scrape the egg masses into a plastic bag with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer and notify Penn State Extension at 1-888-422-3359 or [extension.psu.edu](http://extension.psu.edu).

### **At the Park, Trail, or Preserve:**

Please use the bags, sanitizer, and a stick or credit card to scrape any egg masses you see, then tie the bag and put it in the trash. [The Willistown Township website links to a video on how to remove the egg masses.](#) [Notify Mary](#) of sightings in Willistown parkland.

### **Tree of Heaven**

The SLF's favored food source is this invasive plant that originated in China. PSE has Tree of Heaven identification guidelines on their website. It is extremely important to know how to manage this tree! Just cutting it down will bring it back ten-fold, and eradicating it means that the SLF will find another plant to feed on in your yard. You may want to turn some of your trees into trap trees next year by feeding the tree insecticide and allowing the flies to feast on the tree and die. See the management matrix below for some detail on management.

### **SLF Quarantine Area**

The SLF Quarantine Area Chester and Delaware Counties among many others. Residents are to follow the PA Department of Agriculture's Compliance Checklist, and businesses, agencies, and organizations who move vehicles, products, or other conveyances within or out of the Quarantine Area are required to have a permit.

### **Check Before You Travel**

Be sure to check your vehicle for the insects and any materials you are transporting for hitchhiking Lanternflies before you leave the SLF Quarantine Area described above and follow the Compliance Checklist.

**Thank you in advance for doing your part and working to control this #BadBug!**

**As always, please feel free to contact me.**

**Yours in the out-of-doors,**

**Mary**

**Willistown Parks & Recreation Director**

**Best Times to Use Management Practices**

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec
Destroy egg masses												
Use sticky bands to capture spotted lanternfly												
Registered insecticides can be effective <sup>1</sup>												
Avoid moving gravid (fertilized) females <sup>2</sup>												
Avoid moving viable egg masses <sup>2</sup>												
Treat most tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus altissima) trees with herbicide <sup>1,3</sup>												
Treat tree-of-heaven "trap" trees with systemic insecticides <sup>1,4</sup>												

1. Always read pesticide labels and follow the directions.
2. Before you move outdoor items from the quarantine area, check for Spotted Lanternfly egg masses, nymphs, and adults and destroy them. Use the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture SLF Quarantine Area Checklist when you have to move items from inside the quarantine to outside to comply with the Quarantine Order.
3. Tree-of-heaven trees will resprout vigorously from their roots after cutting, even if stumps are treated with an herbicide. To control tree-of-heaven trees, treat using foliar, basal bark, or hack-and-squirt herbicide applications from July through September. If tree-of-heaven stems need to be removed, wait 30 days after treatment to cut the trees down. Repeat herbicide applications may be necessary. Note: Killing all tree-of-heaven trees may result in Lanternflies moving to surrounding plants increasing pest damage on them.
4. About 15 percent of tree-of-heaven trees should be left alive to serve as trap trees to attract Spotted Lanternflies. Leave only male, non-seed-bearing trees if possible to limit seed production.