

Spotted Lanternfly Winter Management Tips

The Penn State Extension reminds the public that spotted lanternfly (SLF) management is still an issue in the winter. Dominic Marcellino, the Division of Aviation's SLF permit holder, provided the following updates and what to look for from the Penn State Extension newsletter.

Winter Prevention Steps

This insect is easily moved if no one is looking. How do you prevent spreading SLF this season?

Step 1: [Know the life stages of the insect and when to look for them.](#)

- Egg masses are present now.



Examples of SLF egg masses. Image: Heather Leach

Step 2: Inspect materials and vehicles

- Inspect vehicles, trailers and items stored outdoors before movement within or from the quarantine.
- Inspect goods (including packing materials) prior to transport or sale.

Step 3: Destroy any you find.

- Any efforts you make in destroying SLF help reduce populations!
- Watch: [How To Remove Spotted Lanternfly Eggs](#)
- Use [Penn State Extension's management resources](#) to safely manage SLF.

Egg Mass Scraping: Why it Remains a Necessary Part of the Battle Against Spotted Lanternfly

Winter has arrived and the last of the adult spotted lanternfly have died off for the winter, but their egg masses remain, waiting for warm, spring days to hatch. Between now and then, it's time to get into our yards, inspecting trees, vehicles, patio furniture and other outdoor items for the telltale streaks of grey that are the egg masses.

But a question often comes to mind: does scraping an egg mass do any good? While squishing one bug or scraping one egg mass might not seem like a lot, it's good to remember that each egg mass contains 30 to 50 new lanternflies, each ready to hatch and wreak havoc the coming year.

Consider if you didn't scrape that one egg mass: On average, 40 new lanternflies will hatch the following year. Assuming an even split of males and females, the females will produce 2 egg masses each for a total of 40 new egg masses or 1,600 lanternflies in the second spring. That second generation will lay 1,600 egg masses producing 64,000 lanternflies in the 3rd season. By the fifth season, more than 102 million – 102,000,000 - lanternflies have hatched!

With that in mind, consider what would happen if there were an egg mass on the camper that you store in another county, or the patio furniture you decided to sell to someone in another state, or on the goods manufactured and distributed by your business. Not only would the pest be introduced to a new area, but in a short amount of time that new area would be overwhelmed with lanternfly. That is why it is so important to inspect any item you plan to move beyond your property line – to protect your community and others, the nearby orchards and vineyards, Christmas tree growers, hardwood producers, and the peace of mind of those who buy Pennsylvania products.

Are inspections required in winter?

Many areas with SLF have had recent freezing temperatures. With the rare exception that a few adults might survive in sheltered areas, the first freeze of the winter should kill the remaining adults.

Once overnight freezing temperatures occur in your area, complete and document a final inspection for the season:

- Inspect vehicles and other equipment and materials stored outside or unprotected.
- Check wheel wells, under sides of bumpers, truck beds, etc.
- Check pallets, trailers, stone products, etc.
- Remove and destroy any egg masses and adults.

After completing this step, SLF inspections may be suspended December 1 through March 31.

NOTE: You will need to check vehicles, equipment, materials, etc., that were outside during the egg deposition period and did not undergo a final inspection as detailed above before transporting them within or from the quarantine zone. If any egg masses are found, remove and destroy them before moving the item.