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September 2020 District Council

**Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycoma delicatula*)**

Help New Jersey combat a new invasion of insect, Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycoma delicatula*)!

In 2014, a new invasive species from Asia was discovered in Pennsylvania. In just a few short years, the Spotted Lantern Fly can now be found throughout our State. Although they have wings, they are plant hoppers and can only travel short distances. They have become very adept at hitching rides on cars, trucks, and trains. It primarily feeds on Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) which is also highly invasive, but will feed on and potentially destroy over 70 different species of plants including grape vines, fruit trees, maple, black walnut and willow. We can help slow down the spread of this devastating pest by becoming aware and taking steps to control the population growth throughout our State.

-If you see it, Kill it! For small infestations, you can purchase a butterfly net and "catch and squish". Currently very popular with the "kids"!

-Learn to Identify and remove the host plant, Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), on your property and throughout your local municipality.

-You may have seen only a few this year but each insect can lay up to 50 eggs on any hard surface. Next year those few will become thousands. Over the winter, you can locate, remove and destroy any egg cases that you find. Use a credit card to scrape the egg case off of the surface into a ziplock bag with a little alcohol to kill the eggs and dispose of them.

-In the spring, you can create your own "circle trap" for your trees to capture them. Instructions can be found at the PennState Extension website: <https://extension.psu.edu/how-to-build-a-new-style-spotted-lanternfly-circle-trap>

Please take a moment to learn more at the following websites. Knowledge is the best defense!

[https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants\\_Land\\_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted\\_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx)

<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/spottedlanternfly.html>