

# Stop Spotted Lanternflies (SLFs) from Damaging our Trees

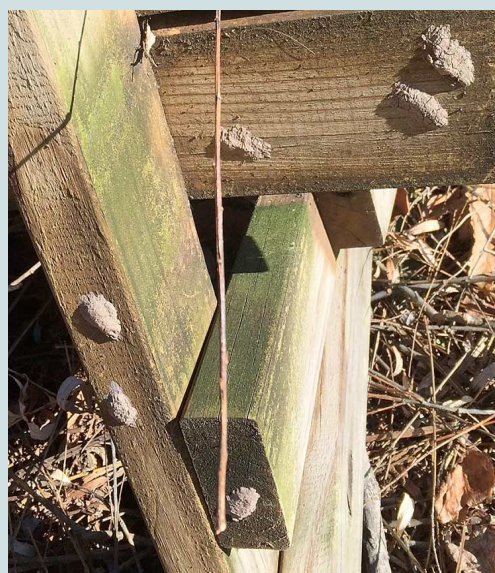
Spotted Lanternflies have killed hardwood trees, pines, and grape vines in Warren.  
We need your help to stop the spread.



Hatches in early May, matures by August to resemble winged moths, then lays masses of 30-50 eggs



le trap secured to a tree. Photo: Emelie Swac  
n State



## What can you do to help? “Join the Battle, Beat the Bug”

- Know the life stages. The SLF prefers to lay eggs in the invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). They jump rather than fly, staying within 10' from the ground.
- The SLF is carried easily. Inspect your car, shoes, or outdoor items for SLF before you move in or out of Somerset County. Keep windows closed when parking.
- Survey your property. Removing Trees of Heaven and killing SLFs preserve your community. Scrape egg masses into a plastic bag containing alcohol, close the bag and place it in the trash. [How To Remove Spotted Lanternfly Eggs \(psu.edu\)](https://psu.edu). If SLF have hatched, build a trap [How to Build a New Style Spotted Lanternfly Circle Trap \(psu.edu\)](https://psu.edu)
- For guidance to identify and remove SLFs and *Ailanthus altissima* on your property, contact a Licensed Tree Expert or a registered tree care business [Directory Search \(njtreeexperts.org\)](https://njtreeexperts.org), [How to Hire a Tree Care Professional \(Rutgers NJAES\)](https://RutgersNJAES)

# Tree Of Heaven: An Invasive Tree



Reddish-brown twigs



Smooth edges on Tree of Heaven



Brown/orange seed pods



Yellow flowers in summer

Tree of Heaven *Ailanthus altissima*

## Why is the Tree of Heaven (ToH) a problem?

Trees of Heaven secrete toxic chemicals into the soil, produce many seeds and aggressive roots, and advance the spread of SLFs. Removing ToH controls the spread of SLFs.

## Differentiating ToH from Native Trees

The invasive ToH may be confused with beneficial native sumac, walnut, and ash trees. The ToH has pinnately compound leaves and reddish-brown twigs(#1 right), which if crushed release a rancid peanut butter or burnt rubber odor. Similar looking native sumac, ash, and walnut tree leaves emit a mild vegetative scent. The leaflet of a sumac is serrated or toothed; ToH has smooth leaflet edges (#2 picture shows: sumac-left, ToH-right). Sumacs produce a panicle of flowers that create a deep red cluster of fuzzy fruits which persist into winter. The ToH produces samaras that hang in clusters and turn a dull orange/ brown color (#3 right). In early summer large clusters of yellow flowers develop above ToH foliage (#4 right).

## Controlling and Removing ToH

The most effective way to control ToH is to pull seedlings by hand before the taproot develops. If the plant has matured, every piece of root must be removed or a new plant will grow. For guidance, contact a Licensed Tree Expert [Directory Search \(njtreeexperts.org\)](http://njtreeexperts.org), Certified Arborist, Tree Steward or a Rutgers Master Gardener.

[Distinguish INVASIVE TREE-OF-HEAVEN From NATIVE SUMAC](#)

[State Of NJ: Lanternfly](#)

[Warren Township Ordinances](#)

Brought to you by: The Warren Township Committee & Environmental Commission [www.warrennj.org](http://www.warrennj.org)