

## Be on the Lookout for Spotted Lanternfly Eggs!

Maybe you have seen spotted lanternfly on a visit to New York City? This invasive insect has made the news--even appearing on Saturday Night Live--because it has the potential to impact agriculture across the United States. Since spotted lanternflies have been reported in the lower Hudson valley, including Putnam County, it's time for you to help find and report this invasive insect pest.

## Is your Holiday Cheer in Danger?

Why worry about another insect? Your winter "cheer" may be in danger! Spotted lanternfly adults feed on grape vines and hop vines. This may influence wine and beer production nationwide. As the insects feed on these and many other plants, including shade trees, they excrete a sticky fluid called honeydew. Sooty mold growing on the honeydew causes surfaces of houses, cars, and sidewalks to turn black and sticky.

We may be able to slow their spread enough to gain some time for naturally occurring predators and parasites to emerge. Birds and small mammals may learn to feed on them, but for now they remain an unfamiliar novelty. So how can you help report their spread?

## Scrape and Destroy

The flying adults die in the Fall leaving behind egg masses. These 1- to 2-inch-long clusters of eggs can be deposited on trees, rocks, outdoor furniture, boats, or on any object that does move around too much. Eggs are laid in parallel rows, and a cluster can contain 30 to 70 eggs. To protect them from predators and weather, the female also covers them with a waxy coating that looks a little like mud. You may find several egg masses near each other, or one alone. If you find an egg mass that is fuzzy, it's most likely that of Gypsy Moth. This one will look like dried mud and may appear crusty.

## Report your Findings

If you think you found one take a photo of the egg mass and email it to [spottedlanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:spottedlanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov). Then scrape the eggs off into a bucket of hot soapy water, or into a baggie or jar of hand sanitizer which contains alcohol. Reporting invasive species helps natural resource managers allocate limited resources to areas where the insect is present and identify new areas of invasion.



Photo Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State University, Bugwood.org

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