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Help Community Research on Predators of Spotted Lanternfly

By Penn State

A Penn State graduate study wants to know if you notice something feeding on a spotted lanternfly.

Sightings of birds or other predators preying on spotted lanternflies should be reported to the Birds Biting Bad Bugs Facebook page.

Reports should be as detailed as possible, including:

Common name of the predator

Life stage of the lanternfly

Date and location of the observation

Any behaviors you noticed

Pictures of the encounter

In particular, the study is interested in whether the predator attempted to eat the insect, dropped it, or finished eating it. Did it spit out the wings, but eat the rest?

Reports also may be emailed to birdsbitingbadbugs@gmail.com.



The spotted lanternfly continues to be a serious threat to Pennsylvania's agricultural crops such as grapes, hops, and hardwoods. The quarantine area in the state now spans 45 counties.

If you have an infestation of spotted lanternfly and its preferred host plant, tree-of-heaven, follow these steps to help combat this bad bug:

Kill about 90 percent of tree-of-heaven on your property -- Simply cutting down tree-of-heaven is not enough to kill it; you must apply herbicide to the stump. Trees selected to be killed should be females (that bear seeds)

Treat the remaining tree-of-heaven on your property with an insecticide -- When spotted lanternfly starts to congregate to tree-of-heaven in late July, they will feed on your trap trees and are killed.

Scrape Egg Masses -- Egg masses are live and viable from about October through July. Volunteers can scrape them off of trees or smooth surfaces and place the eggs in alcohol or hand sanitizer to kill them.

Use a Circle Trap -- When lanternflies move upward in the trap, they end up in a dead-end collection container where they die. Currently, you can purchase this type of trap made specifically for lanternflies from one commercial source. Other people have been making their own traps from scratch.

Use Caution with Sticky Bands -- Use a raised guard of wire or screening around sticky bands to prevent other creatures from getting stuck on them. Beneficial insects, birds, and even bats can become stuck in sticky bands.

For more information on these methods and the spotted lanternfly, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's website.



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