

## Best Management Practices for Nurseries and Landscapers

Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*, "SLF") is an invasive sap-feeding insect first discovered in the state of Pennsylvania in 2014. This highly destructive pest targets over 70 different species of plants, including many that are common in the nursery and landscaping industry.

While an active infestation of SLF has not yet been found in Massachusetts, adults have been found in several MA municipalities. Nurseries, landscapers, and other green businesses that receive goods from states with existing SLF infestations (including CT, DE, MD, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, WV, and VA) should be taking steps now to safeguard their businesses and keep this pest from spreading in our state.

**Nurseries in Massachusetts will be at risk if SLF becomes established, so it is critical that all employees be trained to report sightings of this pest.**

### SIX STEPS TO TAKE NOW TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF SLF:

1. Train all staff on how to identify SLF and to report it to [massnrc.org/pests/slf](https://massnrc.org/pests/slf). Learn to recognize all life stages (eggs, nymphs, and adults) and know when each life stage is active.
2. Display our SLF mini poster in areas visible to both staff and customers, and ask us about ordering SLF ID cards and other free materials to hand out (visit [bit.ly/FPOMOrder](https://bit.ly/FPOMOrder)).
3. Determine if you receive nursery stock or other materials from any of the states listed above (*keep in mind that businesses in uninfested states may be shipping you nursery stock or other materials that originate from an SLF-infested area*). Designate an inspection area to keep nursery stock and other materials separate until they can be inspected.
4. Set up a schedule to periodically check your nursery stock and property for signs of SLF, including checking warehouses, vehicles, plant pots, and other goods for egg masses.
5. Inform customers and other companies you work with that you have trained your staff to detect SLF, and encourage them to do the same.
6. Cooperate with Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) and United States Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) staff if they reach out with questions about SLF. The goal of these agencies is to protect Massachusetts agriculture by preventing the spread of Spotted Lanternfly.

**If your business becomes infested with SLF, it could not only have serious ecological and economic impacts, but may also severely restrict your ability to operate.**

### TAKE THESE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD YOUR BUSINESS AND STOP THE SPREAD OF SPOTTED LANTERNFLY.

To help you get started, a list of SLF host plants and a checklist of materials to inspect is on the back of this page.



### ASK THESE QUESTIONS TO ASSESS IF NURSERY STOCK OR OTHER MATERIALS YOU RECEIVE ARE SLF-FREE:

- Did the material originate from an SLF-infested state?
- If the seller/shipper is in an SLF-infested state, do they have a permit or compliance training certificate?
- Was the material or shipping vehicle inspected and/or treated for SLF? What was done?
- Do you or your staff see any signs of SLF adults, nymphs, or egg masses?

### DO YOU SUSPECT NURSERY STOCK OR OTHER MATERIALS COULD HAVE SLF? COMPLETE THESE CHECKLISTS:

#### Check any of these items at your place of business: (whether it is equipment or items for sale)

##### VEHICLES

- Cars
- Interiors
- Spare tires
- Trucks/trailers
- Tractors
- Wheels/wheel wells

##### SHIPPED GOODS

- Bags of supplies
- Bulk stone
- Crushed stone
- Pallets
- Shipping containers

##### NURSERY/ GARDENING SUPPLIES

- Firewood
- Hand trucks
- Landscaping supplies
- Lawn furniture/decorations
- Nursery stock
- Potted plants
- Storage sheds
- Trash cans
- Wheelbarrows

#### Check these common SLF host plants (nursery stock or wild plants, \*=preferred host):

- Apple/crabapple (*Malus* spp.)
- Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
- Birch (*Betula* spp.)
- Black walnut\* (*Juglans nigra*)
- Grape\* (*Vitis* spp.)
- Blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.)
- Hops (*Humulus lupulus*)
- Lilac (*Syringa* spp.)
- Maple\* (*Acer* spp.)
- Mulberry (*Morus* spp.)
- Poplar (*Populus* spp.)
- Rose (*Rosa* spp.)
- Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
- Stone fruit (*Prunus* spp.)
- Sycamore (*Platanus* spp.)
- Tree of heaven\* (*Ailanthus altissima*)

### SLF LIFE STAGES:



Egg masses (SEP-JUN)



Early nymphs (APR-JUL)



Late nymphs (JUL-SEP)



Adults (JUL-DEC)

**REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS TO [MASSNRC.ORG/PESTS/SLF](https://massnrc.org/pests/slf)**