

Winter is the time to search for Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) Egg Masses!



SLF lay eggs sacs on any fairly smooth surface as well as on the bark of many trees, not just their favorites. The sacs contain 30-50 eggs, are grayish and irregularly shaped with a mud like coating.

*All photos by Elaine Schmerling,
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SLF Task force of the Ardens (Delaware),
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To remove the egg masses scrape them off with a plastic card. You could use a flat blade like a putty knife, just be careful not to damage the bark. Don't just drop egg sacs on the ground, they will still be able to hatch. So do scrape them into a plastic bag with a drop or two of hand sanitizer or rubbing alcohol. Seal the bag and toss in a trash can. In hard to reach places like deeply corrugated bark, smash the egg cases until you feel them "pop." Just to be really safe, consider giving them a squirt of alcohol or hand sanitizer.

Checking patio equipment, mowers, sheds, decks is also important and don't forget to check underneath (you'll need a mirror).



Any tree is fair game for egg masses



At base of a maple, several on the right have already been removed

On a young red maple. On older maples they could be on the underside of branches.



Norway maple

SLF will even use dead trees for laying eggs.



On an ironwood tree (notice "muscle" look).

On the underside of a southern magnolia branch.



SLF like laying eggs in protected places and use many surfaces, so look under things; especially under ivy, as on this rock, and around the bases of trees.



Under the eaves.

On a piece of asphalt. (Don't know how it got in a tree!)



And even on the underside of a piece of trash!

