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Watch for Swarms of Spotted Lanternfly

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

SLATE BELT - Spotted Lanternfly, having grown into adults after storing up the summer warmth and energy, are beginning to swarm. They hunt for tall structures such as trees and houses in preparation to launch themselves into the wind, look for food and find a safe place to lay their eggs. The Spotted Lanternfly poses no harm to humans; however, they disrupt outdoor activity and feed off several types of trees.

These swarming events give researchers a good idea of where large populations might exist today, and where egg masses will likely be found in the winter months. Reporting these swarms via the Public Reporting Tool will aid researchers and treatment staff alike in the effort to slow the spread of this invasive insect.

In 2019, more than 90,000 sightings were reported to the PA Department of Agriculture, with the majority coming in during the September swarm. In 2020, the department saw a 50-80% increase in the number of early season peaks compared to 2019.



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