



# BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

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~ Closter Borough Council ~

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## **SPECIAL NOTICE** **SPOTTED LANTERNFLY**



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Many areas within the State of New Jersey, the Tri-State and along the eastern seaboard are experiencing a significant issue created by the infestation of the Spotted Lanternfly. Closter is just one town in Bergen County that is experiencing this infestation of these destructive bug.

The following information has been taken from the State's website; "Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*, is an invasive planthopper native to China, India, and Vietnam; it is also established in South Korea, Japan and the U.S. It was first discovered in the U.S. in Pennsylvania in Berks County in 2014 and has spread to other counties in PA, as well as the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, Connecticut and Ohio.

This insect has the potential to greatly impact agricultural crops and **hardwood trees**. SLF feeds on the plant sap of many different plants including grapevines, maples, black walnut, and other important plants in NJ. While it does not harm humans or animals, it can reduce the quality of life for people living in heavily infested areas.

### **Why You Should Care**

SLF is a serious invasive pest with a healthy appetite for our plants and it can be a significant nuisance, affecting the quality of life and enjoyment of the outdoors. The spotted lanternfly uses its piercing-sucking mouthpart to feed on sap from over **70** different plant species. It has a strong preference for economically important plants and the feeding damage significantly stresses the plants which can lead to decreased health and potentially death.

As SLF feeds, the insect excretes honeydew (a sugary substance) which can attract bees, wasps, and other insects. The honeydew also builds up and promotes the growth for sooty mold (fungi), which can cover the plant, forest understories, patio furniture, cars, and anything else found below SLF feeding".

### **LINKS and RESOURCES**

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/spotted-lanternfly/management.php>

<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/spotted-lanternfly/>

<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-management-for-residents>

<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/pests-diseases/spotted-lanternfly/homeowner-resources/>

It is highly recommended that property owners **Remove** and **Destroy** these Pests: Crush nymphs and adult insects. Scrape egg masses into a plastic bag and place in trash. Remove Host Trees: Spotted lanternflies prefer the ailanthus tree, also known as "***Tree of Heaven.***" Try to remove trees from the business property to avoid attracting spotted lanternfly.

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On July 5, 2023 the Borough of Closter applied for grant monies available to Counties and Municipalities in New Jersey. The Borough of Closter has submitted its application for funds to assist in the fight against these destructive bugs that are found on borough property.

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Best regards,



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*Mayor*

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