



**Recommendations for the Residential Treatment of
SPOTTED LANTERNFLIES AND THE AILANTHUS TREES (TREE OF HEAVEN)**

Spotted Lanternflies and the Ailanthus Trees are a dangerous duo. A prolific seed producer and rapid grower, Ailanthus gains an advantage over other species by producing a toxin—distributed through its root systems—that inhibits the growth of other plants. In addition to its non-native invasive status, it also harbors an invasive insect species, the spotted lanternfly. The spotted lanternfly attacks fruit trees and other types of trees by feeding on the sap in trunks, branches and twigs. It leaves oozing wounds, indicated by a greyish or black trail along the bark of the plant. The SLF then excretes a substance known as honeydew that can attract bees and other insects. The honeydew and sap also provide a medium for growth of fungi, which can cover leaf surfaces, stunt growth or lead to plant death.

KILLING THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY:

Stomp or Spray. It may take a number of tries (they jump) but stomp them when you see them. Alternatively, spray the insects with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer diluted with alcohol to make it sprayable. (*Organic* flying insect spray sold at supermarkets is pretty much the same thing.) Rubbing alcohol will kill the bugs but it will not harm anything else that comes into contact with it. *Please do not use vinegar or dish detergent which have other environmental casualties.*

TREATING THE AILANTHUS TREES (aka TREE of HEAVEN)*:

Male trees do not need to be cut down, rather, they need to be treated with a systemic insecticide. Only the spotted lanternfly will feed on these trees and the insecticide will kill the bugs but not damage the tree.

However, the female ailanthus (seed pods) needs to be completely removed. The tree should be cut down as close to the ground as possible and within 5 minutes of cutting, the stump needs to be treated with a systemic herbicide. This may need to be done multiple times during the growing season if any sprouts, suckers or seedlings appear around the stump.

Removing the female ailanthus is important for 2 reasons: 1 – to prevent the spread of the invasive plant and 2 – treating trees with systemic insecticide is pricey. Treating the males and removing the females in the vicinity, is a better cost-effective solution.

***We strongly recommend consulting an arborist and having the trees treated professionally.**