

These statements have been developed for the industry to use in consumer or media communications **only if this particular question is asked**. These statements are not meant to be communicated proactively or posted publicly.



The Spotted Lanternfly is Not a Threat to Christmas Trees, Humans, Animals or Homes

THE FACTS:

- The spotted lanternfly is a sap-feeding insect native to Asia that feeds on more than 65 plant species and is projected to become a serious pest of specialty crops including grapes, tree fruit, ornamentals, and hardwoods.
- The spotted lanternfly is **not** a threat to Christmas trees, humans, animals or homes.
- The spotted lanternfly was initially detected in the United States in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 2014 and has since spread throughout 26 counties in Pennsylvania. More recently, the spotted lanternfly has also been found in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- To slow or stop the spread, several of the above-mentioned states have imposed quarantines regulating the movement of plants, plant-based materials and outdoor household items out of the quarantine area.
- For specific details on the quarantine areas within these states, please visit: www.stopSLF.org

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY AND CHRISTMAS TREES:

- Christmas trees are not a preferred host for spotted lanternflies. It is unlikely that a spotted lanternfly would inhabit or lay eggs on a Christmas tree.
- Although it is unlikely that a spotted lanternfly or its eggs will be on a Christmas tree, if this were to happen it is important to remember that the pest poses no threat to humans, animals or homes and will die quickly.
- Christmas tree growers in the states in which the spotted lanternfly has been detected are working closely with the state departments of agriculture to ensure that spotted lanternfly quarantine requirements are met prior to the sale of Christmas trees, including participating in training sessions designed to educate growers about how to minimize the threat of this pest.
- Christmas tree growers in all states follow integrated pest management practices to minimize such threats.
- If consumers are concerned, they are encouraged to inspect the tree prior to purchase. Spotted lanternfly egg masses are visible on the bark if present and can be easily removed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY, PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES:

- www.extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly
- www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx
- www.StopSLF.org