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Spotted Lanternfly Management Options: Placing Sticky Bands on Trees

There is a new invasive insect in Pennsylvania, *Lycorma delicatula*, commonly known as the spotted lanternfly (SLF). This insect can damage apples, grapes, hops, and ornamental and hardwood trees. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) are trying to contain the infestation, reduce populations of this pest and possibly eradicate it. These efforts rely on cooperation from everyone including residents, property owners, municipalities, and businesses. Several different ways of controlling SLF are being used, and more are being developed from on-going scientific experiments.

This fact sheet summarizes one method of capturing and killing SLF: placing sticky bands on trees.



Sticky bands placed on trees can destroy many spotted lanternflies



Young SLF nymphs captured on a sticky band

SLF are often found moving up and down on tree trunks. These moving SLF can be captured on the sticky surfaces of bands placed around trees. This method can effectively destroy many SLF without using insecticides.

Sticky bands are usually placed about 4 feet from the bottom of a tree and secured to the tree with a push pin. The stickiness of the type of band you are using will determine how effectively you can catch different life stages of SLF. Less sticky types of bands can capture the younger nymphs, but might not capture the oldest nymphs or adults very well. Older stages of SLF are sometimes strong enough to walk across the less sticky bands without getting stuck, and they may actually avoid the bands entirely.

Be careful when discarding used sticky bands--some of the SLF that have been captured may still be alive. To eliminate the possibility of spreading any living SLF, either double-bag the bands before discarding them, or burn the bands if allowed by your municipality.

One drawback of using sticky bands is that they can capture other creatures. Other insects are often caught, and some of them may be beneficial insects. Occasionally a bird (such as a woodpecker), small mammal (such as a squirrel), or other animals have been captured. Think about this possibility and have a plan for how you would react to this situation before using sticky bands.

continued

How to obtain sticky bands:

There are several types and sources of sticky bands: bands supplied to residents who volunteer in a program offered by the PDA, commercially available bands, and home-made bands.

PDA volunteer program bands: The PDA has been using sticky bands made with brown paper. In 2018, the PDA will supply sticky bands (as limited supplies allow), to residents who participate in the PDA's official volunteer program. Volunteers must live in the quarantined area. In spring 2018, the following 13 counties are included in the quarantined area: Berks, Schuylkill, Carbon, Monroe, Northampton, Lehigh, Montgomery, Bucks, Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, Lancaster and Lebanon.
To see a map of the current quarantined area go to:
PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/quarantine/Documents/Lycorma%20Quarantine%20Map%20

PDA volunteers will band only *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven). Volunteers must change the bands every two weeks and report the number of SLF captured into the PDA database. If you are interested in completing the training required to participate in the PDA volunteer program in 2018, send your contact information to: kmb52@psu.edu (please include your name, phone numbers, email address, mailing address and the municipality of the property where you will place the bands) or call 610-391-9840 to sign up. Potential volunteers will be contacted with information about the training and where they can pick up banding supplies.



SLF captured on a sticky band

Commercially available bands: If you do not want to be an official volunteer in the PDA program or if you are interested in using sticky bands to kill SLF on trees other than tree of heaven, you can purchase a variety of types of sticky bands from several commercial sources. Some companies sell tree banding kits that consist of a roll of tree wrap and a sticky substance to spread onto the wrap. There is a commercially available band that uses a white fiber material to hold the inward-facing sticky side of the band away from the trunk of the tree. This creates a somewhat protected sticky surface which may lower the potential of catching birds and other animals.

Tree bands you can make: You can wrap several widths of duct tape around a tree trunk, sticky side facing in, and coat it with a sticky substance such as petroleum jelly. Petroleum jelly can discolor bark or even injure the bark of young trees, so avoid getting it on the bark. For more information see the article at:
https://fyi.uwex.edu/gypsymothinwisconsin/making-a-sticky-barrier-band/

Some residents have used other materials including duct tape with the sticky side facing outward or fly paper, to band their trees.

By using sticky bands, people who care for trees are able to capture and kill many SLF, especially in their early nymphal stages. This is one method that can reduce SLF populations in the infested area. Sticky bands are also useful to monitor for SLF in areas where it has not been found.

For more information about the SLF go to:

www.agriculture.pa.gov/spottedlanternfly
https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly

This is not an endorsement of any product or producer. This is not a complete list of possible products or brands.

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