



State of New Jersey

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Talking Points – Spotted Lanternfly and NJ Christmas Trees

Much has been made in the media over the past week about the impact of the spotted lanternfly on Christmas trees. It's important to provide some additional clarity for families looking forward to visiting one of New Jersey's more than 70 Christmas tree farms this holiday season that might be concerned about the impact of this invasive pest.

Q: Will buying a choose-and-cut Christmas tree mean I might bring the Spotted Lanternfly into my home?

Very unlikely. To date, the spotted lanternfly has not been detected on any Christmas tree grown in New Jersey, nor are traditional Christmas tree varieties a known favored host of the lanternfly. Additionally, and out of an abundance of caution, family owned Christmas tree farms across the state are taking every precaution to further mitigate the risk, inspecting their trees regularly not only now, but in the lead-up to the holiday season.

Q: In the off chance that a spotted lanternfly and/or its egg mass comes into my home, is there any risk to me or my family?

Simply put, no. This is a nuisance pest, plain and simple. It poses no risk whatsoever to you or your family or your pets. It has the potential to do economic harm to New Jersey's agriculture and horticulture industries if it spreads within the state, and that is why the Department of Agriculture is underway with a comprehensive eradication plan to limit the risk.

Q: What would happen if one of the flies or its egg mass came into my home?

As noted, there is limited risk of this happening. If on the off-chance you do encounter a lanternfly or an egg mass, simply eradicate it as you would any other unwanted pest.

Q: Should this have any impact on my holiday plans?

Absolutely not. New Jersey's Christmas tree farmers are ready to welcome you to their operations from Sussex to Cape May County over the coming weeks. There is truly no holiday experience quite like choosing a one-of-a-kind Christmas tree. Now more than ever, we would encourage you to "Keep it Real" by supporting New Jersey's Christmas tree farmers. To find a choose-and-cut operation near you, visit <https://njchristmastrees.org/>.