



In recent years the spotted lanternfly, a destructive invasive insect from Asia, has been found in increasing numbers in Connecticut.
antuz73/Getty Images

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is asking motorists to join the fight against spotted lanternflies, a sap-feeding invasive species that permanently wounds crops and excretes large amounts of fluid.

In a [Facebook post](#), the CT DOT said it has put up signs at all rest areas reminding motorists to be on the lookout for any spotted lanternflies that may be catching a ride. "If you see this infamous hitchhiker, take matters into your own hands — or feet. It's important to destroy these unwelcomed guests as they can cause severe damage to trees and other crops," the department said.

Although [spotted lanternflies neither bite nor sting](#), they are significant stressors to native plants and trees, [according to a Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station fact sheet](#).

"SLF can cause serious damage to host plants, including oozing sap from trees, wilting, leaf curling, and tree dieback," CAES said.

The state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection said [many trees in the state are susceptible to SLF](#).

"In Connecticut, approximately 47% of the forest trees are considered as potentially susceptible to the SLF," DEEP said. "Many of the fruit trees grown in Connecticut, such as apples, cherries, and peaches, are also considered to be vulnerable."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said the bug from China was [first detected in Pennsylvania nearly a decade ago](#). The department said 14 states have SLF populations.

CAES also asks residents to take pictures and [fill out a form](#) or email ReportSLF@ct.gov when an SLF is found.

Jessica Bravo
Staff Writer CT Insider

Aug. 16, 2023

<https://www.ctinsider.com/news/article/ct-dot-signs-invasive-spotted-lanternflies-18298758.php>