



# PennState Extension

## Talking Points: Spotted Lanternfly Christmas Tree Risks Penn State Extension

- Christmas Trees have been a tradition for hundreds of years and bring the beauty and amazing scents of the outdoors into our homes for the holidays
- Real trees are part of an outdoor ecosystem, thus there is always a chance that insects may be brought indoors with a tree
- With the spotted lanternfly currently an issue of concern, questions have been raised regarding the possibility of spotted lanternflies being carried into homes
- Although unlikely spotted lanternfly eggs will be on Christmas trees, if they were to hatch indoors the nymphs pose no threat to humans or animals, and will die quickly
- Christmas Tree growers follow integrated pest management practices to minimize such threats
- Growers also work with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to meet the spotted lanternfly quarantine requirements prior to the sale of Christmas trees
- 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](#)
- Pennsylvania is the fourth largest Christmas tree producing state with annual sales of more than \$22 million (NASS 2014)
- Purchasing real Christmas trees benefits local growers and the local economy
- They are also an environmentally friendly choice as Christmas trees are a renewable resource and can be easily recycled, unlike artificial trees
- For those living inside the quarantine zone, we encourage trees to be disposed of by recycling programs where they will be shredded and composted or burned (if allowed by the municipality) and should not be transported out of the quarantine zone
- For the most up to date and comprehensive information on spotted lanternfly and management options go to [extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly](https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly) or call 1-888-4BADFLY.

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