

WHY IDENTIFY TREE-OF-HEAVEN?

Spotted lanternfly is an invasive planthopper from Asia that damages plants and trees by sucking the sap from leaves and stems. This pest feeds on 70+ different plants, including economically important crops.

The preferred host for spotted lanternfly is tree-of-heaven, but this invasive tree is not considered widespread in Vermont. Areas with numerous tree-of-heaven growing can potentially support spotted lanternfly establishment.



TREE-OF-HEAVEN

Ailanthus altissima



Chuck Bargeron



Annamarie Smith



Robert Vitek

WHAT CAN I DO?

If you think you have found tree-of-heaven in Vermont, take a photo and submit your observation.

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AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION

December 2021

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WHAT IS TREE-OF-HEAVEN?

Tree-of-heaven is an invasive deciduous tree from China, and its fast-growing nature means it can directly impact the health of Vermont forests. Efforts are also underway to document and control tree-of-heaven because it is the preferred host of a invasive pest yet to arrive in Vermont, spotted lanternfly. Knowing how to identify tree-of-heaven is the first step in slowing the lanternfly's advance and managing for its spread.

TREE-OF-HEAVEN IDENTIFICATION



LEAVES

Pinnately compound, alternately arranged, smooth margin, 1-2+ feet in length, with 11-41 leaflets per leaf.



SEEDS

Samaras have a single seed in the center of an oblong papery wing, and hang in large clusters; may stay on through winter.



BARK

Ranges in texture, from smooth in young trees, to "cantaloupe" like and rough in mature trees. Average tree height is 70 feet.



LEAF SCAR & GLAND

"V" shaped leaf scars (left) and glandular teeth at the base of leaflets (right). Crushed leaves have a strong "rotten" odor.

LOOK-ALIKES



STAGHORN SUMAC

Staghorn sumac leaves (left) are sharply serrated, and the fruit (right) are red and clustered.



BLACK WALNUT

Black walnut leaves are finely serrated, and the bark on mature trees has deep grooves.

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