Spotted Lanternfly

Lycorma delicatula (Order: Hemiptera, Family: Fulgoridae; this bug is not a moth)

Native to China, India, Japan and Vietnam; invasive in Korea and in the United States. Introduced into Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Spotted lanternfly is a sap feeder that feeds on tree-of-heaven, grapes, hops, apples, plums, cherries, maple, oak, walnut, willow, and poplar.

Both nymph and adults of spotted lanternfly suck sap from stems, leading to reduced photosynthesis, lower fruit crop yields, plant weakness, and death. Honeydew promotes mold and may attract other insect pests.

Life cycle

Adults lay 1”-2” long waxy, grayish egg masses on nearly any flat surface (boats, ATVs, pallets) in fall. After overwintering, egg masses resemble dried, cracked mud before hatching in spring. After hatching, egg masses look like 4-7 rows of dark brown “seeds.”

Wingless, black and white spotted early stage (1st-3rd instar) nymphs, or immatures emerge from eggs and feed on a wide variety of plants by sucking sap from young stems and leaves. Later stage (4th instar) nymphs are red and black with white spots.

Adults are 1” long x 1.5” wide and appear in July. Adults strongly prefer to feed on the invasive tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus altissima) and grapevines (Vitis vinifera). Adults feed in huge groups and excrete sticky, sugary honeydew when feeding, often causing sooty

Spread

Short distance spread: flying, walking, or jumping

Long distance spread: Human movement of nursery stock, firewood, shipping containers, bricks, stone, and other material are the most common means by which spotted lanternfly egg masses, nymphs, and adults spread to new areas.

Report

If you suspect you have spotted lanternfly, please report it right away. Send pictures and location to the Pest Hotline, or contact your local nursery inspector.

- Pest Hotline: 1-866-440-7523
- Email: DATCPPestHotline@wi.gov
- More information: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SLF.aspx

Photos by L. Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; Photo by L.M. Davis