

! Spotted Lanternfly

(Lycorma delicatula)



Adult spotted lanternfly

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest. It primarily feeds on tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) but can also feed on crops and plants such as grape, hop, apple, walnut, and hardwood trees. In the United States, spotted lanternflies have been detrimental to vineyards due to the stress the pest causes to grape vines.

Distribution

The spotted lanternfly is present in China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam. In 2014, the insect was first detected in the United States in Pennsylvania. Since then, spotted lanternfly infestations have been detected in Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Description

Adult spotted lanternflies are about 1 inch long and 1/2 inch wide. They have large, visually striking wings when flying, but appear brownish pink when at rest with closed wings. Their forewings are light brown with black spots at the front and a speckled band at the rear. Their hind wings are scarlet with black spots at the front and white and black bars at the rear. Their abdomen is yellow with black bars. Nymphs in their early stages of development are up to 1/4 inch wide and appear black with white spots and turn to a red phase, reaching up to half-an inch before becoming adults. Egg masses look like smears of flat mud. Female spotted lanternflies cover their eggs with a waxy, off-white coating that turns gray as it dries. Over time, the egg mass darkens into a yellowish-brown color.



Size comparison

Life Cycle

The spotted lanternfly lays its eggs on trees and other outdoor surfaces, often near hosts. Eggs hatch in the spring and early summer, and nymphs begin feeding on a wide range of host plants by sucking sap from young stems and branches. Adults appear in late July and tend to focus their feeding on tree of heaven (*A. altissima*) and grapevine (*Vitis vinifera*). As the adults

feed, they excrete sticky, sugar-rich fluid (honeydew). The fluid can build up on plants and on the ground underneath infested plants, causing sooty mold to form. Honeydew can also attract other insects, such as bees, ants, and wasps, which may feed on it.

Where To Look

Spotted lanternfly adults and nymphs frequently gather in large numbers on host plants. Adult spotted lanternflies lay egg masses on outdoor surfaces, such as the trunks of plants, brick, stone, grills, lawnmowers, and more.

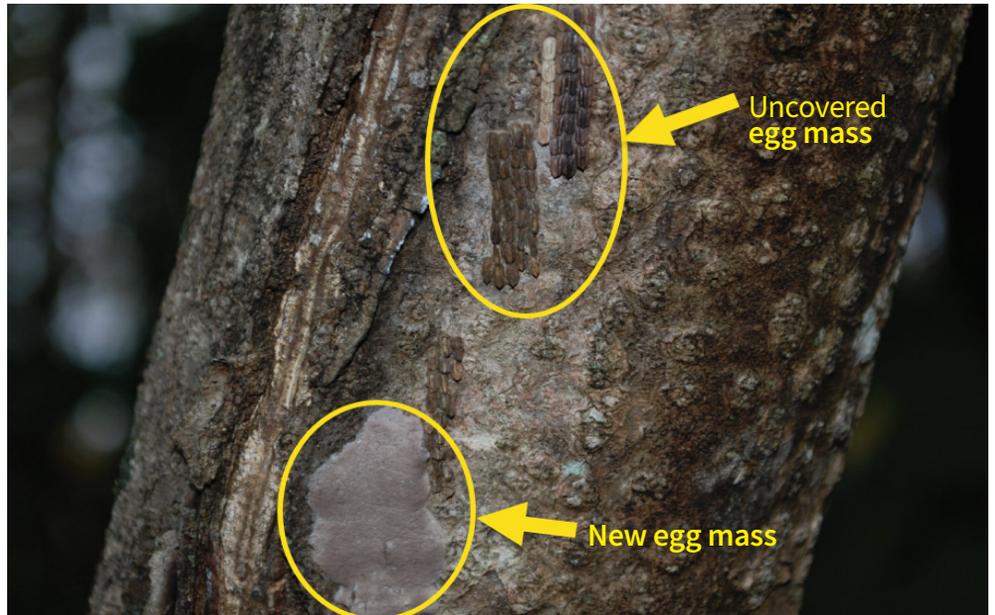
Report Your Findings

Together, we can reduce this invasive pest's population. If you see egg masses, smash, and scrape them off before the next generation can hatch. If you see a spotted lanternfly in a known quarantine area, please destroy it. If you find an insect you suspect is the spotted lanternfly outside of a known quarantine area, take a picture, or if possible, capture it in a jar and store it in the freezer while you contact your local Extension office or State Plant Regulatory Official. To locate an Extension specialist near you, go to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) website at extension.org. A directory of State Plant Regulatory Officials is available on the National Plant Board website at: www.nationalplantboard.org/members.html.

Scan the QR code to learn more about spotted lanternfly.



Spotted lanternfly nymphs are black with white spots in early stages of development and turn red before becoming adults.



Covered and uncovered egg masses



Cluster of adults on the trunk of a tree at night