



Spotted lanternfly

(*Lycorma delicatula*)



553



Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania
Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Description

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) nymphs are black with white spots, and later turn red before transitioning into adults later in the year. Nymphs are small, under 1" in length, and may be difficult to spot. The early nymphs can be found as early as April until July, while the later-stage red nymphs can be found from July until September.

Adults begin to emerge in July and are approximately 1" in length and ½" wide when resting. The forewings (seen while resting) are light grey, with simple black spots ending with a band of much smaller dots on the wing's outer portion. The inner portions of the hindwings are bright red with black spots, and the outer edges are black with a white stripe. The body of the spotted lanternfly is dark with a yellowish underside.

The egg masses laid by adults are a smooth and greyish brown, often covered with a smooth, waxy coating. They are easily mistaken for dried patches of mud.



Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State
University, Bugwood.org

Native Range and Original Use

Native to China, India, and Vietnam, this insect was detected in Pennsylvania in 2014.

Habitat and Dispersion

SLF primarily feeds on tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) as its host species, however, it has been found to feed on over 70 native species. SLF does not fly far distances and is primarily spread as a hitchhiker by laying egg masses on outdoor structures, including vehicles, firewood, furniture, trailers, etc. The SLF spreads further when these egg masses are spread to new areas.

SLF poses a significant threat to agricultural and forest health, as the feeding of the species causes the plants to deteriorate and become more vulnerable to other pests and diseases.



5524251

Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania
Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Best Management Practice

Scrape egg masses from surfaces and destroy them by crushing, burning, or submerging them in alcohol. Inspect trailers, vehicles, and other moving outdoor structures for egg masses on exposed, smooth surfaces before transporting them to new areas. Photograph, report, and kill any adult insects and nymphs found.

Source: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/113303.html>

If you find a **Spotted lanternfly** report it on iMap with a clear photograph and GPS location.