



Spotted Lanternfly

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

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Scientific name

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

Native & Introduced Range

Native to China, India, Japan and Vietnam; invasive in Korea and in the United States. Introduced into **Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, and West Virginia.**

Feeding habits/damage

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) is a sap-feeding planthopper that strongly prefers the invasive **tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)** and **grape vines (*Vitis* spp.)**. It will also feed on hops, maple, walnut, willow, apple, cherry and poplar trees (it doesn't feed on fruit). Nymphs may feed on roses and other ornamentals.

Both nymph and adults of spotted lanternfly **suck sap from stems**, leading to reduced photosynthesis, plant weakness, and death. Honeydew excreted by insects promotes black sooty mold fungi and may attract other insect pests like ants, wasps or bees.

Life Stages



Fall egg mass¹

Hatched egg mass²

Early instar nymph³

Late instar Nymph⁴

Adult⁵

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 late summer and fall. Adults may become a nuisance as they swarm, feed in huge groups & excrete sticky, sugary honeydew.

Spread

Short distance spread: flying, walking, or jumping.

Long distance spread: Aided by humans, spotted lanternfly adults, nymphs and egg masses commonly "hitchhike" on nursery stock, firewood, shipping containers, bricks, stone, and vehicles, spreading long distances to new areas.

Report

If you suspect spotted lanternfly, **please report it right away:**

- Fill out the reporting form at slf.wi.gov
- Call the Pest Hotline at 1-866-440-7523; or
- Email DATCPpesthotline@wi.gov (with detection location, images & contact info)