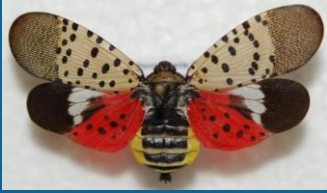


Stop

The Invasion



Photograph courtesy of Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org



Photographs courtesy of Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org



Photograph courtesy of Emelie Swackhamer, Pennsylvania State University, Bugwood.org

Spotted Lanternfly

Lycorma delicatula

Report
Sightings

@

InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov

November 2018

What is it?

Spotted lanternflies are piercing-sucking insects in the order Hemiptera, which are native to Asia. Adults and nymphs pierce plants and feed on sap from stems. The insects are strikingly colored and fairly easy to identify.

Is it here yet?

No, but spotted lanternfly are established in the eastern United States. They were introduced into South Korea, Japan, and the United States. Spotted lanternfly were first found in North America in Pennsylvania in 2014. The insect was able to quickly spread throughout the state, and since has been detected in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia.

Why should I care?

Spotted lanternflies feed on a wide variety of plants, including apples, cherries, grapes, hops, plums, walnut, and many more species. High infestations in Pennsylvania have resulted in the death of well-established grape vines. Large populations also generate enormous amounts of honeydew excretions, which can cover plants and promote the growth of molds and attract other insects.

What should I do if I find one?

If you have a suspected spotted lanternfly please submit a specimen or picture to the Washington State Department of Agriculture: <https://agr.wa.gov/ContactUs/>.

You also can report it online at www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/ or use our "WA Invasives" smart phone app.

How can we stop it?

Halt their spread by making sure you are not transporting eggs, nymphs, or adults from the eastern states. While the adults can disperse by flying, transportation by humans is likely their fastest way of invading new areas. Adults prefer to feed and lay eggs upon the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), a Class C noxious weed in Washington State. Avoid planting Tree of Heaven on your property, and consider safely removing any that already might be present.



Photograph courtesy of Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

What are its characteristics?

Adults are about an inch long, with distinct black spots on light brown or gray wings. Their hind wings have a distinct red and black pattern. Nymphs are black at first, with bright white spots, and become red as they age. Eggs masses look a bit like a smear of light-colored clay, and can be found on outdoor furniture, cars, trains, and plants. Adults also produce large quantities of honeydew, which can leave to mold at the base of trees that looks like soot.

How do I distinguish it from native species?

There are not really any insects that look like this in Washington. In the eastern states, they are most commonly confused with giant leopard moths and underwing moths.

Where do I get more information?

- www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/2014/alert_spotted_lanternfly.pdf
- <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-what-to-look-for>
- www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx

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