

Spotted Lanternfly

Lycorma delicatula

**Not known to be
present in Hawaii**

A distinctive-looking planthopper pest characterized by the white spots it bears throughout its life.



Photo USDA APHIS



S. Eric R. Day, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bugwood.org

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Spotted lanternfly damage in Tree of Heaven.



Impacts

- Primarily attacks the tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*): younger instars feed on leaves causing stunted growth, later nymphs and adults cluster on woody tissue causing weeping wounds, sooty mold, and sometimes plant death.
- Feeds on grapevines, maples, pine trees, and can cause significant damage on fruit trees: plum, peach, apple.



Identification

- Look for indications of feeding (leaf damage, weeping wounds) on host plants.
- Sooty mold caused by the combination of sap from weeping wounds and honeydew from insects, can indicate the presence of spotted lanternfly.
- Granular egg masses can be found on the smooth surfaces of the trunk.
- Early instars are black with white spots.
- The final instar is red with white spots and red wing pads.



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Vectors/Commodities

- Anything stored outdoors in infested areas.
- Adults will lay egg masses on virtually any smooth surface including bark, shipping containers, vehicles, and lawn furniture.



Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org
Egg masses can be found on virtually any smooth surface.



Distribution

- Native to China, Bangladesh, and Vietnam.
- Currently found in 11 mid-Atlantic states: Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.



Best Management Practices

- This species is not known to occur in Hawaii. Prevention and early detection efforts protect Hawaii's nursery industry and environment.
- Consider sourcing options and pest distribution when purchasing plants.
- BOLO: Be on the lookout! Carefully inspect all material coming from the mid-Atlantic states for egg masses, larvae, or adults.
- Report any suspect pests to 643pest.org or by phone 643-PEST (7378).



Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org

Adults cluster on bark and wound trees by feeding.



Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Sooty mold can indicate the presence of a spotted lanternfly.



Selected References:

- Spotted Lanternfly Plant Health Alert, USDA APHIS https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/alert-spotted-lanternfly.pdf
- Spotted Lanternfly Resource Page, USDA APHIS <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/hungry-pests/the-threat/spotted-lanternfly/spotted-lanternfly>

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