

**PEST ALERT**

## Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)

**Adult**

**Nymph**

**Egg Masses**


Photos: Adult/Nymph: Lawrence Barringer, PA Dept. of Agriculture, [bugwood.org](http://bugwood.org);  
 Egg Masses: Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State University, [bugwood.org](http://bugwood.org)

**WANT TO HELP?**

- Learn how to identify spotted lanternfly
- Inspect your firewood, vehicles, outdoor furniture, and camping gear for egg masses, nymphs, and adults
- If you visit states with spotted lanternfly, check all your gear and equipment before leaving and scrape off any egg masses

Updated: August 2021



Spotted lanternfly adult (L) and fourth instar nymph (R). Photo: USDA APHIS.

Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive plant hopper insect that was introduced into the United States in 2014. Native to China, this pest is associated with the invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) but can also cause significant damage to grape, apple, stone fruits, and walnut. Although not currently found in Rhode Island, this pest has established populations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia with individual finds in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Spotted Lanternfly is predicted to spread further north and east, putting Rhode Island at high risk.

**Description:** Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is plant hopper, a type of “true bug” that uses a stylet (or beak) to pierce plant tissue for feeding. In addition to the spotted patterning, the adult SLF’s unique colors feature scarlet underwings, yellow markings on its abdomen, and tan semi-transparent forewings. Adults about an inch in length and can be found late July into November. The nymph stage appears in June and July and feature strikingly bright red and black bodies with white spotting. Early stage nymphs lack the red color and appear completely black.

**Distribution:** SLF was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has quickly spread through surrounding states. An invasive plant-hopper that is currently infesting portions of the mid-Atlantic region of the United States, SLF has established populations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia with individual finds in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts. In Pennsylvania, there has been significant yield loss in vineyards and the insect has become a public nuisance.

**An adult Spotted Lanternfly was found in Rhode Island in August 2021. This was an individual find, no known population of spotted lanternfly is currently present in Rhode Island. Report suspected sightings at [www.dem.ri.gov/pestalert](http://www.dem.ri.gov/pestalert)**

For more information or if you suspect you have found an invasive pest, please report it to us:

**[dem.ri.gov/pestalert](http://dem.ri.gov/pestalert)**