

Pest Alert: Spotted Lanternfly

Fact Sheet & FAQs about *Lycorma delicatula*



AT A GLANCE

- The invasive Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) has been found on Cleveland's east side.
- This is a plant-hopping insect with wings, approximately an inch long and with a wingspan of 2 inches as a fully-grown adult.
- Spotted lanternfly has the potential to become an extremely destructive pest in Northeast Ohio if left unchecked and could wreak havoc on many species of plants and trees and the industries that depend on them.
- The biggest thing the public can do right now is to know what to look for, keep an eye out, and report

Photo credit: Oregon Department of Agriculture

Spotted lanternfly adults were found at Cleveland's east side on August 26th, 2021. The discovery was confirmed on September 2nd by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This means more are likely in our neighborhoods.

WHAT IS THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY?

This is a plant-hopping insect with wings, approximately an inch long, and with a wingspan of 2 inches as a fully-grown adult. Adults can be observed most readily in the late summer and fall. Grey frontal wings with black spots and bright red hind wings (only visible when wings are open) with black spots are the most identifiable features. The young, immature insects—or nymphs—look different; they are black with white spots, developing red patches as they grow. Nymphs are usually seen in late spring and summer. Egg masses are laid in late fall on any surface including trees, buildings, and outdoor furniture. They are greyish and covered in a waxy, mud like covering which gets a cracked appearance over time. Old egg masses appear as rows of 30-50 brownish, seed-like deposits in columns.



ADULT SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

Photo Credit: Lawrence Barringer, Entomologist, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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EGG MASSES AS THEY MATURE FROM YOUNG (LEFT) TO OLD (RIGHT)
Photo Credit: Erica Symers and Ohio Department of Agriculture



THE YOUNG SPOTTED LANTERNFLY (NYMPHS) IS BLACK WITH WHITE DOTS AND DEVELOPS A RED COLOR AS IT MATURES.

Photo Credit: Teá Kesting Hardy

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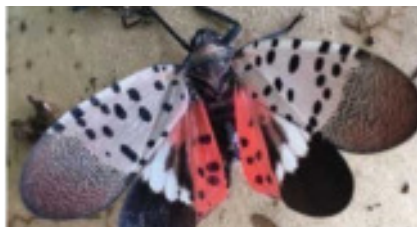
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ADULT WITH WINGS OPEN VS ADULT WITH WINGS CLOSED

Photo Credit: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

These insects are native to **China**, **India**, and **Vietnam**. They were introduced to the USA—likely accidentally through plant product imports—in 2014. This 2021 incident is the first confirmed sighting in Northeast Ohio, with one previous sighting in the Youngstown area. They have no significant predators in the USA and tend to overpopulate where they spread and get established.

WHAT SYMPTOMS APPEAR ON THE TREE?

The extensive feeding of spotted lanternflies causes:

- Small wounds that ooze sap, leaving a gray or black trail along the bark.
- Leaf curling or wilting will often occur as the insects suck nutrients from the plant.
- Canopy dieback.
- The presence of honeydew and the growth of blackish sooty mold.



Photo Credit: Erica Smyers, Penn State

HOW DO THEY HARM TREES? IS IT DEADLY?

Spotted lanternflies cause significant damage to trees and other plants in areas where they are numerous. The adults **feed on sap** and secrete a large amount of sugary residue—called honeydew—which in turn encourages sooty mold growth. This mold is not directly harmful to humans, but it damages trees. Leaf areas where the sooty mold grows are prevented from photosynthesizing.

Death from feeding has been observed in mature grapevines, sumac, and tree-of-heaven, as well as sapling trees. Beyond this, there is much to learn; research is ongoing to understand the true impacts and mortality possible from spotted lanternfly.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Take a moment to familiarize yourself with what to look for by using the images and descriptions here and on [ODA's website](#). Keep in mind that as fall progresses, adults congregate on trees such as tree-of-heaven, willow, and others and note that spotted lanternfly tends to spread into a new area via transportation routes as they “hitchhike” on trains and rail lines. Late summer/early fall is the easiest time to spot the adult lanternfly, so please, keep an eye out, and report any signs of these pests! At this early stage of potential infestation, residents can do a lot to help by detecting and reporting! If you suspect a spotted lanternfly infestation, at any life stage please report the finding to the ODA Plant Pest Control (614-728-6400, plantpest@agri.ohio.gov). If you have photos of eggs, adults, or nymphs, even better! Send them to the email above or attach them to the form here: <https://arcg.is/OaTbCL>

IF YOU SPOT AN ADULT SPOTTED LANTERNFLY:

1. Try to catch it. Don't worry, they don't sting or bite!
2. Place it in a sealed bag, and freeze the specimen.
3. Contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) by filling out a form at <https://arcg.is/OaTbCL> and mail it to the address provided on the form.

If you can't catch the spotted lanternfly, take a photograph and submit it to plantpest@agri.ohio.gov.

IF YOU SPOT SPOTTED LANTERNFLY EGGS:

1. Report the eggs to plantpest@agri.ohio.
2. Destroy the eggs by scraping them off the surface.
3. Double bag them (with alcohol or hand sanitizer if you have any on hand) and throw it away - if the eggs are ONLY scraped off they will still hatch.

If you can't catch the spotted lanternfly, take a photograph and submit it to plantpest@agri.ohio.gov.

KEEP ALERT, OHIO!

Spotted lanternfly has the potential to become an extremely destructive pest in Northeast Ohio if left unchecked and could wreak havoc on many of our beloved plants and trees and the industries that depend on them. Help the effort to detect, contain, and eradicate by staying informed and alert for this pest. Thank you!



HOLDEN
FORESTS &
GARDENS