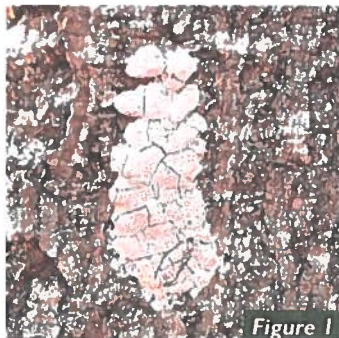


LIFE STAGES OF THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

EGGS

October - June



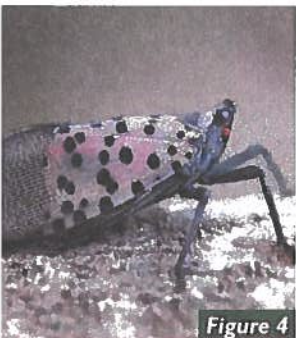
HATCH 1ST - 3RD INSTAR

Late April - Mid July



4TH INSTAR

July - September



ADULTS

July - December

If you see it...

SNAP IT



SQUASH IT



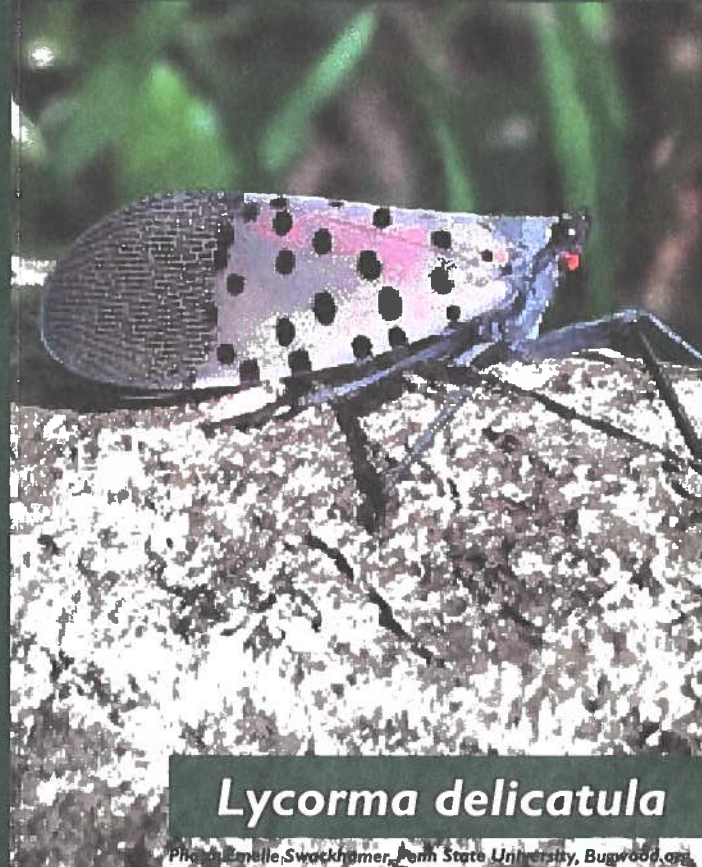
REPORT IT



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Plant Protection & Weed Management
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

mda.maryland.gov/spottedlanternfly

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY



AN INVASIVE PEST THREATENING MARYLAND

WHAT IS A SPOTTED LANTERNFLY?

The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive planthopper native to Asia. It was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014 and



Figure 5

has since been found throughout the Mid-Atlantic, including in Maryland. Although the main host of spotted lanternflies is tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), also a foreign invasive species, they actively feed on many economically important crops, including grapes, hops, tree fruits, hardwoods, and ornamentals.

Adult spotted lanternflies are strikingly colored insects approximately 1-inch long with grayish spotted front wings and red, white, and black patterned hind wings. The body is yellow and black banded (Figure 5). However, this insect dramatically changes appearance throughout its life cycle. The tan eggs, 30-50 per egg mass (Figure 1), are covered with a gray waxy coating and can be laid on any flat surface from late September until frost. Eggs hatch from late April to early May, into tiny 1/4-inch, white-spotted angular black nymphs (Figure 2) and begin feeding by sucking sap from host plants. As they grow older, nymphs molt to become bright red and black with white spots (Figure 3). These later nymphs are a 1/2 inch in length and are typically easier to spot than the more cryptic young nymphs. Adults first appear around mid-July to feed, mate, and lay eggs and may be found until the first killing frost (Figure 4).



Photo: Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State University, Bugwood.org

WHAT IS THE RISK TO MARYLAND?

Spotted lanternfly is a known pest that feasts on over 70 different plants, many of which are important to Maryland. The insects feed using their piercing-sucking mouthparts, like a straw, to drink the plant's vital nutrients. This can affect both the amount of fruit harvested and its quality. Feeding damage also causes stress to the plants, leaving them vulnerable to disease and attack from other insects.

As spotted lanternflies feed, they excrete honeydew – a sticky, sugary substance. Honeydew attracts ants, wasps, and other insects that can become a nuisance. The honeydew is also a problem for homeowners as it coats surfaces and is hard to remove. Deposits of honeydew support the growth of black sooty mold. This unsightly fungus can build up on plants, block light, and reduce photosynthesis, leaving them vulnerable to disease and other insects. Sooty mold can also discolor cars, houses, and lawn furniture and can be very difficult to remove.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

BE VIGILANT

The spotted lanternfly is a weak flier and travels mainly through human activity. Nymphs and adults are attracted to dark-colored objects and have been found on or around vehicles and clothing, allowing them to hitchhike into new areas. However, egg masses pose the greatest threat of unintentional spread. Females lay their eggs on almost any flat surface. If you travel through an area where spotted lanternflies are present, inspect your vehicle carefully. Use the Spotted Lanternfly Checklist for Maryland Homeowners on the department's website to make sure your property is pest-free.

PEST REMOVAL

If you are in or near an area where spotted lanternflies have been found, survey your property for any egg masses. These are usually found on or around trees, but can be located on any flat surface. If you find any suspect egg masses, scrape them into a container or plastic bag and cover with alcohol or vinegar to kill the eggs. Simply removing the eggs and leaving them on the ground to freeze will not kill them. Every egg mass eliminated destroys 30-50 spotted lanternflies. Another way to combat spotted lanternfly is by using circle traps. Circle traps can be purchased or made at home. Visit the PennState Extension's website for more information on DIY circle traps. For those interested in using insecticide to control spotted lanternfly, please contact the University of Maryland Home & Garden Information Center. The state does not operate a residential treatment program.