PEST ALERT
Spotted Lanternfly

Spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula* (Hemiptera: Fulgoridae), is a non-native invasive insect from Southeast Asia. The insect was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has since spread, resulting in quarantines imposed on affected counties in Maryland and other states. SLF is now present throughout the Mid-Atlantic region and parts of New England. It is unintentionally spread along man-made pathways. Thus, early SLF invasions occur adjacent to highways, interstates, and railroads. Once established, SLF becomes a landscape pest. Due to its wide host range and exponential rate of reproduction, SLF poses a threat to Maryland's agriculture industry and is a nuisance to residents.

Lifecycle

Adult SLF are large (approx. one inch long), strikingly colored insects, with grayish spotted front wings and red, white, and black patterned hind wings. The body is yellow and black banded (Fig. 1 – Adult SLF). However, the insect dramatically changes appearance throughout its life cycle. The tan eggs, 30-50 per egg mass, covered with a grey waxy coating, are laid on any vertical surface from late September until frost (Fig. 2 – Eggs; Fig. 3 –Eggs on barrel). Eggs hatch from late April to early May, into tiny white-spotted angular black nymphs (Fig. 4 – Young nymphs) and begin feeding by sucking the juice from host plants. As they grow older, nymphs molt and become bright red and black with white spots (Fig. 5 – Full-grown nymphs). Adults first appear around mid-July to feed, mate, and lay eggs (Fig. 6 – Cluster of adults).

Photo Credit: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Fig. 1 - Adult Spotted Lanternfly

Fig. 2 - Egg Mass

Fig. 3 - Egg Mass on barrel

Fig. 4 - Young Nymph

Fig. 5 - Full-Grown Nymph

Fig. 6 - Cluster of Adults

Feeding Behavior

SLF nymphs fed on over 70 species of plants, including apples, apricots, blueberries, cherries, grapes, hops, nectarines, peaches, oak, pine, and poplar, among others. Adults prefer to feed on tree-of-heaven *(Ailanthus altissima)*, another non-native invasive species.

Potential Damage

SLF feeds by inserting its proboscis into the stem or trunk of a plant. It then sucks photosynthate from the plant. Feeding can cause stunted growth, reduced yields, and reduced winter hardiness of the host. As the insects feed, they excrete a sugary honeydew that attracts bees, wasps, and ants, as well as supports the growth of black sooty mold that blocks sunlight from leaves.

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How You Can Help Stop SLF

First, learn the insect's unique appearance and inspect your property. If you see a suspected SLF and you are outside of a quarantine zone, snap a photo, squash it immediately, and report your sighting to the Maryland Department of Agriculture online at: **mda.maryland.gov/spottedlanternfly**. Second, inspect vehicles, trailers, and any other movable items on your property. Make sure that these items are clear of SLF before moving them. Third, you can trap infested trees on your property using circle traps. Finally, you can use insecticidal formulations. Contact the University of Maryland Home & Garden Information Center to receive the most current information on insecticidal options.

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