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## Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)

The Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive planthopper that is native to China, India, and Vietnam. This insect was first detected in the United States in Pennsylvania in 2014. Since this initial detection, the Spotted Lanternfly has spread and established in multiple surrounding states, including Connecticut. This insect is a nuisance pest for homeowners and poses a threat to Connecticut's grape and orchard industries, as well as logging and general forest health.



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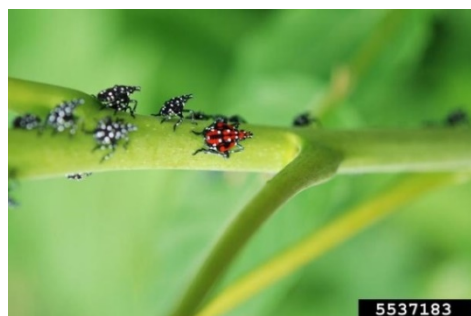
### Description:

Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) nymphs have four instar (developmental) stages, and can usually be seen between April and October. The first through third instar nymphs are black with white spots, in the fourth instar stage nymphs are red (pictured right).



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Adults can be seen July through November, and are generally about an inch long and half as wide when their wings are closed. Their forewings are a tan/grey color with black spots. Their hind wings are bright red with the same black spots, though the hind wings are usually not visible when the insect is feeding or at rest. Spotted Lanternflies have yellow abdomens with black banding.



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Spotted Lanternflies lay their eggs between October and December and the egg masses can be found through late spring when the eggs start to hatch into nymphs. The egg masses are a discreet gray/brown color, and are typically covered in a waxy coating that looks similar to clay or mud.



Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State University, Bugwood.org

### Hosts:

The primary host for the Spotted Lanternfly is the Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). SLFs have a number of other host plants including, but not limited to, grape, hops, apple, maple, walnut, and willow. SLF nymphs are more likely to feed on a wide variety of host plants, whereas adults tend to be more selective and will usually feed from *A. altissima*.



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### Damage:

The Spotted Lanternfly is considered a nuisance pest for home owners and residents in areas of infestation. The insects stress plants they feed from by sucking sap through their piercing-sucking mouthparts. They also excrete honeydew which encourages the growth of sooty mold and attracts other insects. We encourage Connecticut residents who see Spotted Lanternflies to report their findings. Reports, with photos if possible, can be submitted online on the CAES website at <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES-SLF>. Further questions or comments can be emailed to [ReportSLF@ct.gov](mailto:ReportSLF@ct.gov).



Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org

### Information Sources:

Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*  
<https://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=77293>

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant\\_health/alert-spotted-lanternfly.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/alert-spotted-lanternfly.pdf)