

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY



WHAT IS THE THREAT:

The Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) aka SLF is a large piercing and sucking insect, which feeds on the sap of many plants during the younger nymph stages but prefers trees in the later instar nymph and adult stages. Adults have black bodies with brightly colored underwings. SLF front wings are gray with black spots, and the tips of the wings are black with gray veins. Nymphs are black and white for the first three instars but are mostly red in the last instar stage. All stages are excellent jumpers, but the adults will fly to some extent. SLF completes one generation per year, with the egg stage overwintering.

WHERE IS THE THREAT:

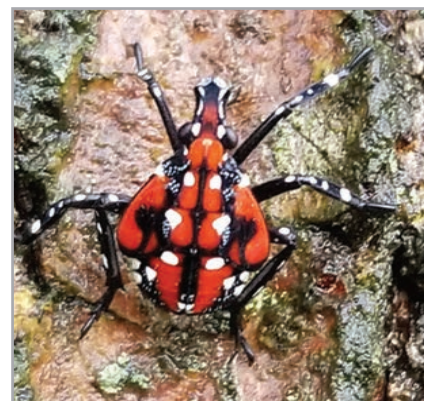
SLF is an invasive species from Asia that was first reported in Burks County, PA in 2014. It has since become established in PA, VA, DE, and NJ and has been detected in NY, MD, CT, and MA. SLF is known to feed on more than 70 species of plants and trees, including wild and cultivated grapes, hops, tree of heaven, walnut, maple, and birch.

SYMPTOMS:

Trees attacked by SLF will develop weeping wounds, which leave a grayish or black trail along the trunk. This sap attracts other insects like wasps, ants, and flies to feed. Honeydew released by feeding adults will cover surfaces under trees and serve as a medium for black sooty mold. In late fall, adults will lay egg masses on host trees and nearby smooth surfaces. Newly laid egg masses have a gray mud-like covering. Old egg masses appear as rows of brownish seed-like deposits on the trunk and underside of branches, roughly an inch long. Left untreated, SLF feeding will cause yellowing of branch tips on host trees. Tree mortality can occur over the course of 2-5 years.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT:

A mid-summer (July) trunk injection of IMA-jet® is recommended. To increase the tree's resilience, follow up with an application of NutriRoot® or Mn-jet Fe™. SLF mortality occurs after ingestion, generally within a few days of treatment, and continues for a full season. Adults may continue to migrate to attractive treated trees into the fall, but feeding is limited, and honeydew and sooty mold production will decline.



Spotted Lanternfly nymph



Spotted Lanternfly egg mass



Honeydew and sooty mold covering ground under tree of heaven

All images taken by: Don Grossman, Arborjet, Inc.