



Spotted lanternfly

Lycorma delicatula

The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is a planthopper, and uses its wings to assist these jumps rather than making sustained flights.

Adults measure about 1 inch long and 1/2 inch wide. They display a black head, grey wings, and red hind wings. Spotted Lanternflies lay egg masses containing 30-50 eggs, often covered with a grayish mud-like coating. In temperate climates, these egg masses overwinter

The species was accidentally introduced into South Korea in 2006 and Japan in 2009, and has since been considered a pest. In September 2014, First recorded in the United States, and as of 2022, it is an invasive species in much of Northeastern United States and is rapidly spreading south and west. Their egg masses have been found to be the primary vector of spread, with *Ailanthus altissima* populations seen as a risk factor for further infestation globally. Ongoing pest control efforts have sought to limit population growth, due to the threat *L. delicatula* poses to global agricultural industries. In its native habitat, they are kept in check by parasitic wasps.

Its preferred host is tree of heaven, but it infests economically significant plants including soybean, grapes, and stone fruits. Spotted lanternflies feeds on woody and nonwoody plants, piercing the phloem tissue of foliage and stems with specialized mouthparts, and sucking the sap; it does not eat the fruit or the leaves *per se*. The sugary waste fluid they produce can coat leaves and stems, which encourages mold growth and can impede photosynthesis.

Lanternflies feed on sap from the trunk or branches of their host plants; because they can appear in such large numbers on a single plant, they can directly cause substantial damage to, and effectively kill parts or the whole of the host.

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