

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

Hemiptera: Fulgoridae

Lycorma delicatula

Bug
of the
Month



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Background. The spotted lanternfly (SLF) feeds on over 100 different host plants, including tree of heaven (its preferred host), maple trees, black walnut trees, and on diverse crops such as grapes, blueberries, apples, stone fruits, and hops. Adults and nymphs damage plants by feeding on sap from leaves, stems, and the trunks of trees. Native to China and Southeastern Asia, SLF was first detected in Pennsylvania in September 2014. SLF has been found

in over 30 counties in Pennsylvania, all of which are under a state-imposed quarantine to slow its dispersal to new areas.

Biology. Eggs are laid in the fall as 1 ½ inch long masses, each containing 30-50 eggs. They are found on many different plant surfaces and range from yellow to brown in color. SLF will overwinter as eggs, and upon hatching (between May and June), SLF nymphs will appear black with white spots, and are found

feeding on soft plant tissues. The last (fourth) nymphal instar is red with black bands and white spots. SLF are fully mature by August and are approximately 1" long and 1/2" wide, with forewings that are gray with black spots, and hindwings that are half red and half black with a white band. The adults will lay eggs and persist into November or until freezing temperatures are reached.

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