

# Identifying Spotted Lanternfly



The spotted lanternfly is a new invasive insect that can damage many trees and fruit crops. This quick slideshow will help you identify its life stages so you can spot it at any time of year.

Spotted lanternflies overwinter as eggs. The female adults lay the eggs in fall and encase them in a waxy mass that looks like dried mud. These masses often appear on smooth-barked trees like beech, sycamore, and Tree of Heaven.





Females don't always use the waxy coating. In that case, the eggs appear in vertical rows. There can be up to 50 eggs per mass.



Photo credit: Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State University,  
Bugwood.org



Spotted lanternflies don't just lay egg masses on trees. They will use just about any smooth outdoor surface. Rusty metal, outdoor furniture, RVs, mowers, grills, mobile homes, tile, stone, siding, pool covers, play equipment, and decks are all possible egg mass sites.



Photos credit: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org



Spotted lanternfly eggs hatch in May. The early forms of this insect, called nymphs or instars, are black with white spots. They feed on dozens of plant species.



Photo credit: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org)

In July, the spotted lanternfly changes into its last immature stage. This stage is red and black with white spots.



Photo credit: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org)



Later in July, the red-and-black nymphs molt and change into adults. The adults are about 1 to 1 ½ inches long and have bright red underwings.



Photo credit: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture,  
Bugwood.org



You often won't see the red underwing if the insect isn't flying.  
Look for white, translucent wings with black spots.



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



Spotted lanternflies feed using sucking mouthparts to draw sap from plants. Common symptoms of spotted lanternflies are trees that weep or ooze (left), or that have mold built up around the base from the lanternflies' excrement (right).



Photos credit: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org



# What if I find spotted lanternfly?

Spotted lanternfly is a new invasive pest, and it is spreading rapidly. Please report it right away!

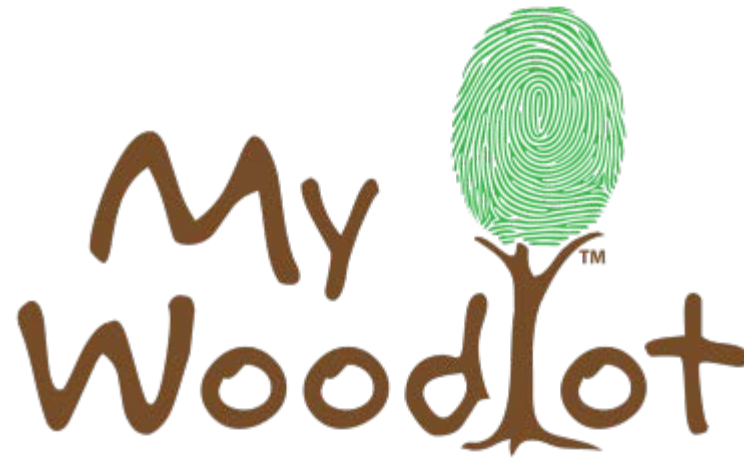
New York: [spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov](mailto:spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov)

Connecticut: [CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov](mailto:CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov)

Massachusetts: Fill out [this](#) form.

New Jersey: [SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov](mailto:SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov) or 833-223-2840

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