



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY DAMAGE

The spotted lanternfly damages plants in three ways:

1. Sucking out the sap and weakening the plant so that its yield is reduced.
2. Secreting “honeydew” which increases the occurrence of sooty mold that blocks sunlight and inhibits photosynthesis.
3. Stresses plants which allows other insects and pathogens to potentially damage and kill the plant.

IDENTIFYING THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

- Adults are approximately 1 inch in size.
- Greyish forewings marked with black spots and small brick-like markings near the wing tips.
- Hindwings are marked with distinct patches of red, white and black.
- Adults lay yellowing-brown egg masses that are covered with a gray, waxy coating.
- Immature stages of the insect are black with white spots, they eventually develop bright red patches as they near adulthood.
- Their preferred host is tree-of-heaven.
- Adults are present from mid-July until a hard frost in late fall. Adults start laying eggs in mid-September.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How can I reduce the number of spotted lanternfly on my property?

A: Removing tree-of-heaven from your property is vital in reducing populations.

Q: What is a quick and easy way to kill spotted lanternfly around my house?

A: Spray spotted lanternfly with a solution of 10% dish soap and 90% water.

Q: Will spotted lanternfly harm my pets?

A: No, spotted lanternfly poses no known harm to pets or humans.

Q: Will the spotted lanternfly kill my fruit trees and vegetable garden?

A: While it's possible, it's unlikely that spotted lanternfly will feed enough to kill your fruit trees and the majority of common vegetable crops.

Sources: WVDA, WVU Extension, VDACS

STATE SPECIFIC RESOURCES

West Virginia

- [West Virginia Department of Agriculture](#)
- [WVU Extension](#)
- If you have a sighting of spotted lanternfly please report it to the WVDA bugbusters detection email at bugbusters@wvda.us. If you can, please, include a photo of the insect before trying to kill it. In the email include as much detail about the location, date and insect activity.

Virginia

- [Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#)
- [Virginia Tech](#)
- Contact and Reporting
 - [Invasive Species Reporting Tool](#)
 - Email spottedlanternfly@vdacs.virginia.gov

Maryland

- [Maryland Department of Agriculture](#)
- [University of Maryland Extension](#)
- [Report a Spotted Lanternfly Sighting in Maryland](#)