Spotted Lanternfly Identification

Spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect with the potential to seriously impact Michigan's agriculture and natural resources. Spotted lanternfly could damage or kill more than 70 varieties of crops and plants including grapes, apples, hops and hardwood trees. As of June 2020, spotted lanternfly has not been detected in Michigan.

Spotted lanternfly causes damage by sucking sap from host plants and secreting large amounts of a sugar-rich sticky liquid called honeydew. This honeydew and the resulting black, sooty mold can kill plants and foul surfaces. The honeydew often attracts other pests, particularly hornets, wasps and ants, affecting outdoor recreation and complicating crop harvests.

Credit: Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org

Identifying life stages of spotted lanternfly

Egg masses resemble old chewing gum, with a gray, waxy, putty-like coating. Hatched eggs appear as brownish, seed-like deposits.

Credit: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Credit: Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State University, Bugwood.org

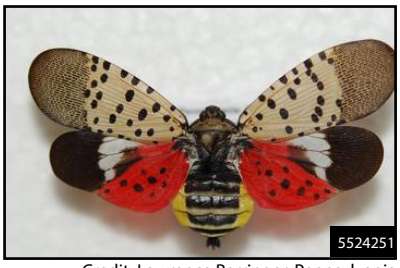
Spotted lanternfly nymphs are about ¼ inch to ½ inch long. They are wingless and beetle-like, first appearing black with white spots and developing red patches as they mature.

Credit: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Credit: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Adults are roughly one inch long. Their folded wings are gray to brown with black spots. Open wings reveal a yellow and black abdomen and bright red hind wings with black spots transitioning to black and white bands at the edge.

Credit: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org



Credit: Lawrence Barringer, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Report suspected spotted lanternfly:
800-292-3939 or www.misin.msu.edu or MDA-Info@michigan.gov
Learn more:
michigan.gov/exoticpests or michigan.gov/spottedlanternfly