



Spotted Lanternfly Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is a spotted lanternfly (SLF)?**

The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive insect, new to the U.S. Spotted lanternflies are native to parts of Southeast Asia; since their arrival in Korea, they have become major agricultural pests. In 2014, spotted lanternflies were detected in southeastern Pennsylvania and spread rapidly. They were also found in Virginia in 2018. Additional specimens have now been found in nearby states as they have been transported by human commerce and traffic.

2. **Is spotted lanternfly in Maryland?**

Yes, in mid-2018, nymphs and adults were found in northern Cecil County. After 2019 trap collections from Harford County, a State Quarantine of both counties was issued in October 2019. This quarantine addresses both commercial and residential movement within and out of the Quarantine Zone. <https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/SLF-Quarantine-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

3. **How do I recognize spotted lanternflies?**

SLF change appearance as they develop. The small brown eggs, covered with a grey waxy coating, are deposited on any handy surface in Fall. They can only overwinter as eggs, and emerge in spring as small black 'knobby' nymphs with white spots. Older, large nymphs are bright red and black, with white spots. In summer, the large (1 inch) winged adults appear, with grey-brown spotted front wings and brilliant red and black hind wings. You can learn to recognize all these stages. Visit: <http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/spotted-lantern-fly.aspx>

4. **If I think I've seen/caught/killed a spotted lanternfly – what then?**

Dead, collected specimens or photographs should be reported to: DontBug.Md@Maryland.gov
Keep in mind that adults are not out until summer.

5. **How do spotted lanternflies move?**

Nymphs jump, and adults fly weakly. However, movement from place to place is mostly by wind currents, and hitchhiking on vehicles or other transport.

6. **Do spotted lanternflies harm trees or other plants?**

Since SLF is so new to North America, there is much we don't know about them. In Korea, they have had a major impact on grapes, and reduce yields of fruit trees, among others. Nymphs feed on an ever-expanding plant list, and as they feed, excrete a sugary 'honeydew' which supports black sooty-mold fungus growth that blocks light from reaching the leaf surface. Adults prefer, and may need, to feed on tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), another serious, non-native, invasive species.

7. **Are spotted lanternflies harmful to humans and animals?**

SLF do not bite, sting, or attack people or animals. However, they may fly or land on us. It is unknown if they are poisonous or harmful if ingested; tree-of-heaven does produce some toxins which might accumulate in the insects as they feed. This pest's major harm is in endangering Maryland and U.S. agriculture.

8. **What is being done about spotted lanternfly in Maryland?**

We are continuing to intensively survey, and using outreach to educate the general public. This serious pest has the potential to have a very significant impact on Maryland and U.S. agriculture. Early detection gives us the best chance to combat SLF, and educating residents will increase the odds in our favor.

More information can be found on MDA's website:

<http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/spotted-lantern-fly.aspx>