



# WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Shade Tree Commission

### Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) - Quick Facts

- SLF is a **destructive invasive pest** threatening agricultural and ornamental plants.
- As of May 2020, **26 counties in Pennsylvania are under quarantine** for SLF. SLF has also been **found in 5 other states in the northeastern U.S.**
- SLF **does not bite or sting.**
- SLF **does not kill all trees it feeds on.** SLF is a **plant stressor** that, along with other stressors, can cause significant damage to its host.
- **Stop the spread** of SLF by checking your car and any outdoor equipment (grills, mowers, firewood, etc.) when going in and out of the quarantine zone.
- Manage SLF on your property by **scraping and destroying eggs**, carefully using **bands or traps on trees**, removing **preferred hosts**, and using **registered insecticides for control** when appropriate.



### Feeding Damage

SLF is capable of causing serious damage to host plants, including oozing sap from the trees, wilting, leaf curling, and tree dieback. SLF feeds using a piercing-sucking mouthpart tapped into the plant like a straw. When SLF feeds, it excretes honeydew, a sugar-rich liquid waste product. Honeydew serves as a substrate for sooty mold, fungi that thrive in sugary environments. SLF expels significant amounts of honeydew, and often the plant surface and the area around infested plants become coated with honeydew and sooty mold. This mold is generally harmless to people but can damage the plant. If you see sooty mold or sticky areas on a plant or tree, it may be infested by SLF, but it could also be infested with other insects that produce honeydew, such as aphids, leafhoppers, or scales. Therefore, it is important to identify the cause of the mold, as control measures may differ for pests other than SLF.

There is no way to prevent SLF from moving onto your property. Be aware that SLF is very mobile and management actions must be continuous to keep them controlled.

Consequences of direct feeding damage to the host trees have not been quantified. SLF does not kill every tree on which it feeds. Some plants are at more risk than others. Plant death has only been observed in grapevines, tree-of-heaven, and some tree saplings. SLF is a plant stressor that, in combination with other stressors (e.g., diseases, weather), can cause significant damage to host plants. Following high infestation levels, flagging and canopy dieback of black walnut, willow, staghorn sumac, and maple have been reported. It is possible that after heavy feeding, multiple years of sustained damage, or particularly dry years, SLF may cause significant damage to ornamental and shade trees. However, currently SLF is predominantly considered a nuisance pest for homeowners, and death has not been reported in any ornamental tree.

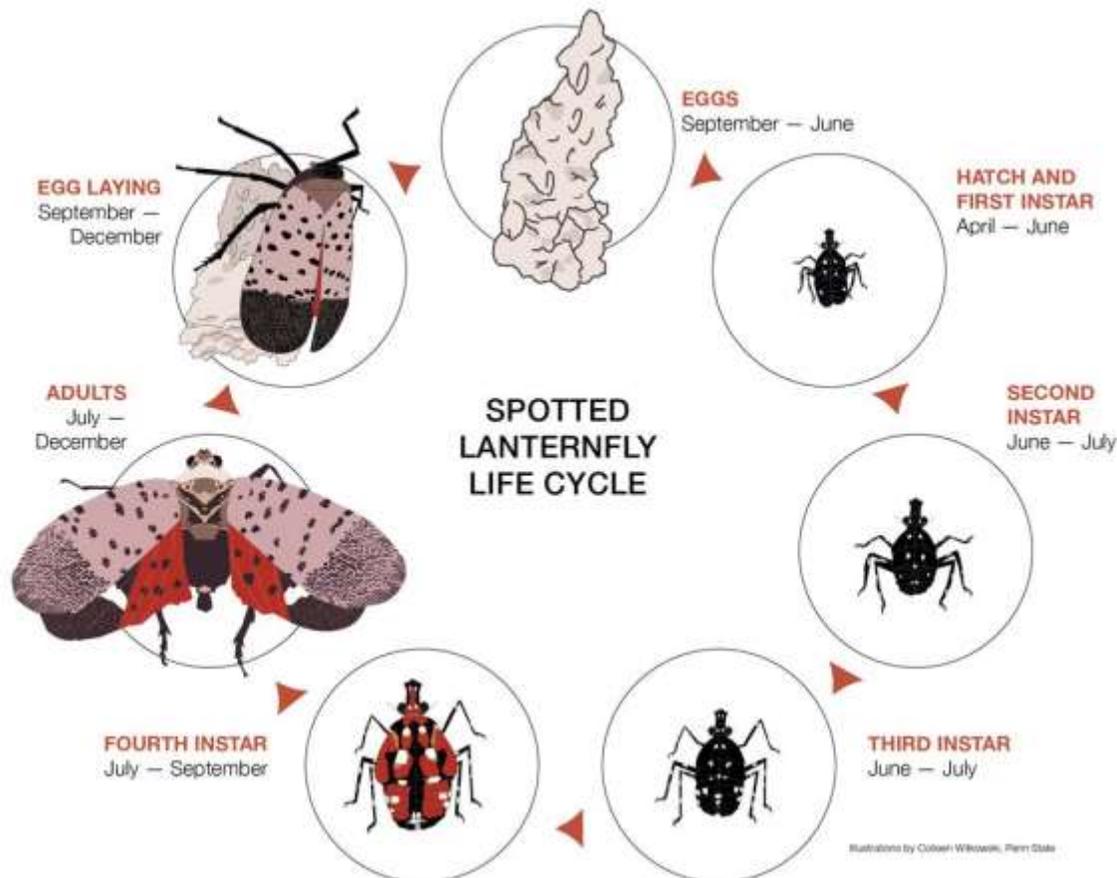
The State of New Jersey is requesting your help in the effort to control its spread! If you think you see it in any of its life stages on a property within West Windsor Township, please report your sighting to the Township at [SLFLY@westwindsortwp.com](mailto:SLFLY@westwindsortwp.com). Please include a date, location by street address or known landmark, and a photo if possible.

All of Mercer County is under a **Quarantine** in an attempt to prevent the spread of this pest to other areas. Movement of certain articles that can spread the pest is being regulated, and a Permit is required for those who routinely move vehicles, products or other means of pest conveyance into or out of the Quarantine Zone.

When you travel in and out of the quarantine zone, check your car and any outdoor items you are moving (grills, outdoor furniture, landscaping supplies, mowers, etc.). Check for SLF egg masses from September through June. Remember that egg masses may be underneath your car or in your wheel wells. During all other times of the year, check for nymphs and adults, and keep your windows rolled up when you park. Don't store things or park under infested trees, and don't move firewood.

## Spotted Lanternfly Life Cycle

*Insect sizes have been enlarged to show detail.*



### Q. Are they a threat here?

A. Spotted lanternflies feed on the sap of a plant and when there are high populations of them, they can cause significant damage. They feed on over 70+ plants, including important forestry and agricultural crops. Spotted lanternfly was first discovered in the United States in Berks County, PA in 2014. It has since spread throughout 13 counties in southeastern Pennsylvania, which the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has designated as a spotted lanternfly quarantine zone. In 2017, spotted lanternfly was also found in Frederick County in Virginia. In 2018, three New Jersey counties (Mercer, Warren, and Hunterdon) were quarantined for spotted lanternfly.

### Q. Do spotted lanternflies kill trees and plants?

A. In Korea, spotted lanternflies have had a major destructive impact on grapes, and grape-products such as wine. Spotted lanternflies have also reduced yields on important fruit-bearing trees and other plants. The spotted lanternfly feeds on more than 70 types of plants, including crops such as grapes, apples, hops, walnuts and other hardwood trees.

Source: <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>