

Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)

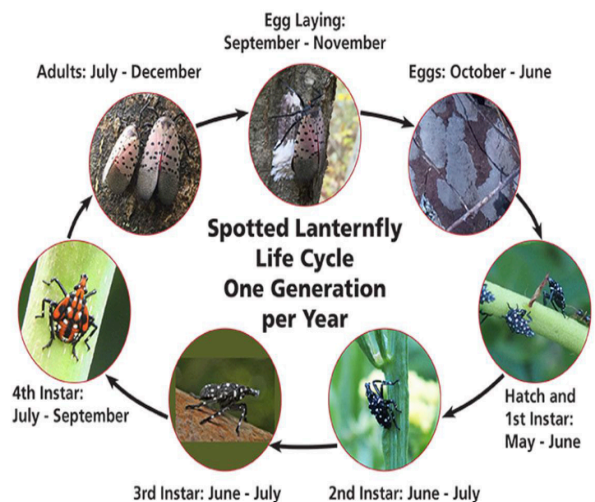
Description:

Spotted lanternflies are small insects, native to parts of China, Taiwan, and Vietnam. This species is highly invasive in Japan, South Korea, and the United States. Spotted lanternflies have three distinct life stages: adult, nymph, and egg masses. Adult forms are around one inch long, with pinkish/tan wings and scattered black spots. The hindwings have a distinctive red-spotted color—and black and white banded pattern. Spotted lanternflies' preferred habitat is forested areas and they cling to host trees, such as the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).



Control:

Spotted lanternflies cause damage to forests and agricultural programs. Adult lanternflies and nymphs, damage plants by feeding on them. This damage causes plants to reduce photosynthesis rates, weaken the plant and can cause death. More natural control methods consist of planting milkweed as a natural deterrent, this plant is poisonous if ingested. The use of neem oil is also an effective method. Neem oil can be applied to any surface where spotted lanternflies eat from or walk on. Neem oil can also be sprayed directly onto the insects, killing them on contact.



During the spotted lanternfly egg-laying season, which is October-June. A beneficial control method is manually crushing the egg masses. Scraping eggs off and placing them into a vessel filled with rubbing alcohol, will effectively kill the eggs. Setting traps (mesh, sticky, and bag traps) during the months of May and June will catch nymphs, and will prevent a larger number of adult spotted lanternflies from developing. In more severe cases, insecticide can be used. Insecticides can kill spotted lanternflies on contact, the use of systemic insecticides can be

beneficial. Systemic insecticides are absorbed by the plant and cause death to insects when ingested.

Sources:

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