Spotted Lanternfly

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is a Spotted Lanternfly/Where did they come from?**

  --The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive insect new to the United States. Spotted Lanternflies are native to Southeast Asia, but they have been introduced to other areas of Asia as well—including to Korea, where Spotted Lanternflies are a major pest to agriculture. Spotted Lanternflies are reproducing quickly in our area of south-eastern Pennsylvania, and Spotted Lanternflies have the potential to become a major threat to Pennsylvania's agriculture and forestry industries.

  --For more information, please click here:
  http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx

- **How do I identify a Spotted Lanternfly if I see one?**

  --Spotted Lanternflies go through five (5) stages of growth after hatching from eggs. These stages, called nymphs (or 'instars' in scientific literature), are quite different. The young nymphs are black with bright white spots. The next stages of growth are similar, but the nymphs become larger. The 4th stage of Spotted Lanternflies, prior to adulthood, is vibrantly red with distinct patches of black and equally distinct bright white spots. The adult Spotted Lanternfly is a winged, flying leaf-hopper about 1 to 1 and ¼ inch long. During this, the final stage of Spotted Lanternfly development, the insect has grey wings with dark black spots. When the Spotted Lanternfly opens its wings, one sees a bright red underwing with black wingtips.
  --Spotted Lanternflies live through the winter only as eggs. These eggs form egg-masses laid on trees, under bark, on rusty metal, on plastic yard objects, on cars and trailers, on outdoor grills, and on many other surfaces.

  --For more information about identifying Spotted Lanternflies, please click here:
  http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/spotted_lanternfly/Documents/4-27-16%20Spotted%20Lanternfly%20Pest%20Alert.pdf

- **I think I killed/caught a Spotted Lanternfly—what do I do with it now?**

  --If you live outside of the quarantined area (see the map here):
  http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/spotted_lanternfly/Documents/Lycorma%20Quarantine%20Map%20(24%20June%202017).pdf **, report any Spotted Lanternflies to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA). Report these new Spotted Lanternflies to** Badbug@pa.gov **, or 1-866-253-7189. The PDA is charged with protecting the agricultural industries of Pennsylvania, and as part of this mission, the PDA collects data on evidence of Spotted Lanternflies. The PDA can also direct property owners to additional resources provided through The Pennsylvania State University. These resources can help property owners make informed decisions about what each property owner can do about Spotted Lanternflies on each property.**

- **Do Spotted Lanternflies kill trees and plants?**

  --Spotted Lanternflies are very new to North America, and there is much about Spotted Lanternflies that we do not know. As of now, we have no knowledge that Spotted Lanternflies kill trees and plants. However, 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.

  --Here is a link to information about the economic threat posed by Spotted Lanternflies:
  http://www.hungrypests.com/the-threat/spotted-lanternfly.php

- **Are Spotted Lanternflies dangerous to children and pets?**

  --Spotted lanternflies are not known to bite or sting or attack people, pets, or livestock. And it is not known if Spotted Lanternflies are poisonous when ingested by humans or animals. But because of the damage Spotted Lanternflies do to agriculture and forestry products, Spotted Lanternflies are a threat to the economic well-being of our state and its citizens.

- **Can I prevent Spotted Lanternflies from getting on my property?**

  --The best thing any property owner can do is become informed about Spotted Lanternflies. By becoming informed, property owners can choose to remove and/or treat the Ailanthus trees on their properties. In addition, property owners can follow Penn State's guidelines for using contact pesticides and treatments on a variety of trees and plants.

  --Here is a link to valuable Penn State information:
  http://extension.psu.edu/pests/spotted-lanternfly

- **What happens if my township/county/borough gets quarantined because of the Spotted Lanternflies?**

  --The quarantine for Spotted Lanternflies is an important legal designation. The citizens of municipalities under a quarantine order can follow simple directions to ensure that each citizen complies with the law. The PDA quarantine order directs citizens and municipal authorities to follow guidelines to prevent the movement of Spotted Lanternflies at any stage of development. These guidelines direct citizens to inspect all wood and vegetation that might leave the quarantined municipality. In addition, these guidelines direct citizens to inspect vehicles, trailers, and other mobile equipment prior to moving such equipment out of the quarantine.
  --For more information about complying with the Spotted Lanternfly quarantine, click here:
  http://extension.psu.edu/pests/spotted-lanternfly/news/2017/how-to-comply-with-the-spotted-lanternfly-regulations
  --and here:
  http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/spotted_lanternfly/Documents/Quarantine%20Plain%20Language.pdf

- **Why is there a quarantine for Spotted Lanternflies in some places and not others?**

  --The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture conducts ongoing and very careful surveys of all of Pennsylvania. PDA crews survey for evidence of Spotted Lanternflies using detailed visual and trapping methods. Once PDA's survey crews find evidence of Spotted Lanternflies in an area, the evidence is scientifically analyzed by both Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's entomologists and by scientists from the United States Department of Agriculture. Only then, is a township, borough, or city quarantined by the PDA.

  --For detailed information about PDA quarantines, click here:

  http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/spotted_lanternfly/Documents/QuarantineOrder.pdf

- **What is the best source of up-to-date information about Spotted Lanternflies?**

  --The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and Penn State University provide a wealth of accurate and valuable information about Spotted Lanternflies. Web links, quarantine up-dates, printed material, and educational videos are available through both the PDA and Penn State.
  --For much more information click here:
  http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/PlantIndustry/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx
  --and here:
  http://extension.psu.edu/pests/spotted-lanternfly