

# Jim's Bugs

January 2015 / by Jim Revell

## Spotted Lanternfly



Left: [http://blog.pested.psu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Spotted\\_Lanternfly\\_PDA\\_Wings-Spread1-1023x690.jpg](http://blog.pested.psu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Spotted_Lanternfly_PDA_Wings-Spread1-1023x690.jpg)  
Right: [http://blog.pested.psu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Spotted\\_Lanternfly4\\_Wings-Closed2.jpg](http://blog.pested.psu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Spotted_Lanternfly4_Wings-Closed2.jpg)

**Class:** Insecta

**Order:** Hemiptera

**Family:** Fulgoridae

**Genus:** *Lycorma*

**Species:** *delicatula*

Our “bug” this month is one to be listed in the category of “PEST ALERT.” By now, we are familiar with the Marmorated Stink Bug and the damage it continues to cause in our area. This stink bug was first reported in 1998 in Pennsylvania and soon moved south, reaching our area around 2004.

**PEST ALERT:** The Spotted Lanternfly was confirmed to be in Berks County, Pennsylvania on September 22, 2014. On November 1, 2014, a quarantine was announced by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in hopes it would restrict its movement. This was the first detection of the Spotted Lanternfly in the United States.

Identification of the Spotted Lanternfly is aided by its name. The approximately 1-inch long and ½-inch wide adult (see top photo on the right) has the typical treehopper body shape. The large wings are striking as the forewings are light brown with black spots at the front and a speckled band at the rear. At rest, they have a black head, and wing spots are prominent. Hind wings are scarlet with black spots at the front, and white and black bars at the rear. Their abdomen is yellow with black bars.

This insect is a planthopper and calls Asia its native home. Found in China, Korea, India, Vietnam, and parts of eastern Asia, it is an invasive pest to Korea, introduced in 2006 and now attacking 25 plant species. The problem is, these 25 plant species are known to grow in Pennsylvania and many, if not all, also grow in surrounding states including Virginia. If this pest spreads in the United States, it has the potential to seriously damage the country's vineyards, orchards and logging industries.

Host plants include grapes, apples, pines and stone fruits which are all major commercial plants in our area. There are at least 70-80 known host plants. It has been stated that early detection is, and will be, vital to effective control of this pest. For a potentially damaging pest, however, it has one good quality -- the preferred host of adults (piercing-sucking mouthparts) for feeding and laying eggs is the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), an invasive species similar to sumac, although they will also feed on oak, walnut and poplar.

The Spotted Lanternfly nymphs do the major damage, feeding on the wide range of host plants. The nymphs appear black with white spots and, then, prior to becoming an adult, go through a red phase (see photo at right).

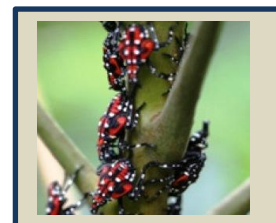


Photo at right (nymph stage of Spotted Lanternfly):  
[//blog.pested.psu.edu/2014/11/17/a-new-invasive-insect-the-spotted-lanternfly/](http://blog.pested.psu.edu/2014/11/17/a-new-invasive-insect-the-spotted-lanternfly/)

Spotted Lanternflies have great mobility in that they can fly for short distances, walk and jump. Long-distance movements occur when people move infested materials containing egg masses.

Females lay their eggs on smooth plant surfaces and non-host materials that include dead plants, bricks and stones. Almost any vertical surface can be a potential host for egg masses. Yellow-brown egg masses are covered with a gray, waxy coating prior to hatching.

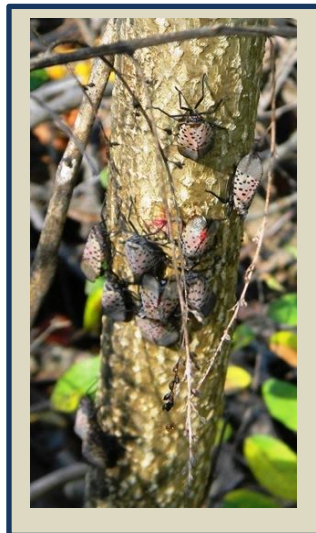
Hatching as early as April in the Spring into early Summer, the nymphs immediately begin feeding, sucking sap from young stems and leaves. Egg masses can be seen beginning in late September into the start of winter.

Adults begin to appear in mid-to-late July, moving to the Tree of Heaven, grapevines or other host plants. Their feeding results in excrements of a sticky, sugar-rich fluid known as honeydew. This, in turn, can attract other pests and cause sooty mold, a fungi.



Above right (egg mass): <http://blogs.cornell.edu/nysipm/2014/11/18/for-new-invasive-lanternfly-best-ipm-tool>

Below left: (adults on host tree): <http://blog.pested.psu.edu/2014/11/17/a-new-invasive-insect-the-spotted-lanternfly/>



The Spotted Lanternfly – adults and nymphs – frequently congregate in large numbers on host plants. Dusk or night-time is the best time to locate them as they migrate up and down the trunk.

In the daytime, they will cluster at the base if cover is available, otherwise, they will hide in the canopy.

At present, the Spotted Lanternfly is isolated to Berks County, Pennsylvania and surrounding counties. A Management Plan is still evolving with a quarantine presently in place. The quarantine covers a wide variety of items, from the movement and transportation of firewood, nursery stock, crated materials and household items to brush, debris and landscaping materials.

An article entitled “Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Extended,” which appeared in the Saturday, November 22, 2014, issue of *Lancaster Farming*, announced that Pennsylvania’s Agricultural department has extended the quarantine to include additional townships and boroughs, taking every precaution to stop the spread of the Spotted Lanternfly and its threat to agriculture.

Remember the Marmorated Stink Bug - - a major pest that came to Virginia from Pennsylvania. ***We may want to be on alert for this pest as well.***

#### Other references include:

“Pest Alert: Spotted Lanternfly,” USDA, November 2014; APHIS 81-35-024

[http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_2\\_24476\\_10297\\_...](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_24476_10297_...)

<http://ento.psu.edu/news/2014/the-spotted-lanternfly-a-new-insect-pest-detected-in-pennsylvania...>

Jim Revell is a Bedford Extension Master Gardener Volunteer.

Read more of his articles on the “Jims Bugs” page @ [www.BedfordMasterGardeners.org](http://www.BedfordMasterGardeners.org)