



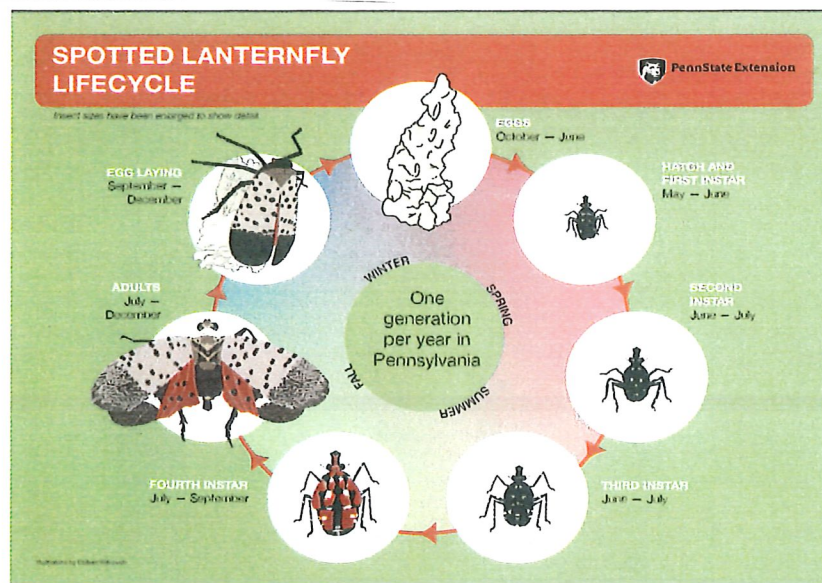
Environmental Commission Newsletter

Township of Long Hill, County of Morris

October 2023

Preparing our Neighborhood for the Spotted Lanternfly

As another season goes by in Long Hill Township, it is important to be continually aware of this invasive species. The spotted lanternfly is a destructive invasive pest that causes damage to a large number of our local plant species (mostly native tree species). The spotted lanternfly is neither a moth nor a fly but a type of planthopper native to other ecosystems. The adults prefer to feed on a non-native host plant known as the "tree of heaven" (*Ailanthus altissima*) and the immature instars (or nymphs – both terms mean immature stages) will feed on a wide range of our local tree and shrub species, to include black walnut, red maple, river birch and grape vines. In fact, the spotted lanternfly can feed on more than 70 plant species within its range. When already hatched and flying, it is a challenge to control or reduce their population. Our contribution as a community is to stomp out the spotted lanternfly when we see them but more importantly, remove the egg masses in the fall and winter months.



In order to reduce the spotted lanternfly population, it is important that everyone contributes during their egg and instar life cycle stages (see picture below). These critical life cycle stages begin as early as October in our region when they start laying egg masses. They are not easy to see at first but the egg masses can be described as one inch or longer brown, mud-like secretions that harden on man-made or natural surfaces (such as tree bark or wood decks and benches). Egg masses can be scraped off using "scrapper cards" or anything that is thin, hard and flat (e.g., an old credit card). After locating and then scraping the egg mass off a surface, the eggs can be destroyed by placing it into a bag (recommended to double bag them) that has alcohol or hand sanitizer in it, or just by just smashing them in the bag. At this egg mass stage, you can be more effective and remove potentially more spotted lanternflies with each egg mass destroyed. Each egg mass can typically have 15 to 25

eggs. So, start surveying your property by looking on your deck and on trees like the tree of heaven, black walnut, red maple, willow, river birch, and on wild grapevines. By looking through your own property every few weeks and removing egg masses in the fall/winter and the instars when they hatch in June, you will be helping our community ecosystem by lowering the local population of these destructive pest.

Lastly, please do not use any type of sticky traps in the spring for pest management! These glue traps are indiscriminate and every year birds are attracted to glue traps for free bugs. The birds are then stuck on the traps and die. Please use the referenced sources/links below for more information.

Sources:

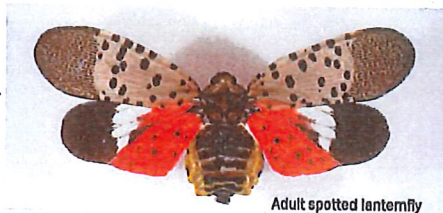
- 1) <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/spotted-lanternfly/>
- 2) <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/pests-diseases/spotted-lanternfly/>
- 3) <https://extension.psu.edu/how-to-build-a-spotted-lanternfly-circle-trap>
- 4) <https://www.facebook.com/theraptortrust/posts/424904426344563/>

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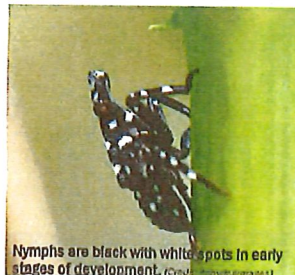
Adult spotted lanternflies are approximately 1 inch long and one-half inch wide, and they have large and visually striking wings. Their forewings are light brown with black spots at the front and a speckled band at the rear.

Their 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. Nymphs in their early stages of development appear black with white spots and turn to a red phase before becoming adults.

Egg masses are yellowish-brown in color, covered with a gray, waxy coating prior to hatching.



Adult spotted lanternfly



Nymphs are black with white spots in early stages of development. (Credit: [istockphoto.com](https://www.istockphoto.com))



Adult spotted lanternfly



Nymphs turn red just before becoming adults. (Credit: [istockphoto.com](https://www.istockphoto.com))



Hatched and unhatched egg masses