



## Pest of The Month

### Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)

The spotted lanternfly was first detected in the United States (Pennsylvania) in September nearly 10 years ago. While it has not been reported in Adams County, it has slowly spread into other Ohio counties. It has most recently been discovered in Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Mahoning, and Muskingum counties. The Spotted Lanternfly does not directly harm humans; however it is devastating to certain crops. The primary host for this pest is the tree of heaven, which is also an invasive species found in Ohio. The spotted lanternfly poses a concern for Ohio's grape and wine industry, as grapes are secondary hosts. Other hosts include apple, plum, cherry, peach, nectarine, maple, and walnut trees. Damage from these pests ranges from wilting and dieback to copious amounts of "honeydew", a sticky sugary liquid left on feeding areas. This tends to attract ants, wasps, and flies. Honeydew is colonized by a fungus known as "sooty mold" which can ruin crops. Spotted lanternflies suck the sap out of the plant, leading to reduced yields and increased stress.

Spotted lanternfly can spread rapidly when introduced to new areas, especially if major highways, railways or rivers are in proximity of the introduction site. The pest is not a good flyer and is often spread through "hitchhiking" on vehicles and other forms of transportation. The public plays an important role in detecting this insect. From July to October, spotted lanternflies are in their adult stage. They are approximately one inch, with black bodies and gray to tan wings with bright red wings underneath. Their wings are spotted black. They will lay eggs (small, gray masses covered by a waxy covering) beginning in October.

If you think you see spotted lanternfly or damage caused by them, please report it to ODA by filling out the Ohio Plant Pest Reporter online: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1b36dd2cf09e4be0a79776a6104ce1dc>



May through June the SLF nymph lacks wings and has a red body with white spots.