TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences

Disaster Education Response Team

Spotted Lanternfly

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The spotted lanternfly [*Lycorma delicatula* (White)] is an invasive pest first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014. It is currently spreading throughout Pennsylvania. It is native to China, India, and Vietnam; but has been accidently introduced into Japan, South Korea, and now the United States. Both the adult and nymph stages cause damage by feeding on the phloem of host plant branches. It has not been detected in Tennessee, but there should be great concern about preventing the establishment of this insect in the state because of its potential to negatively effect plants in the landscapes, nurseries, vineyards, orchards, and forest settings.

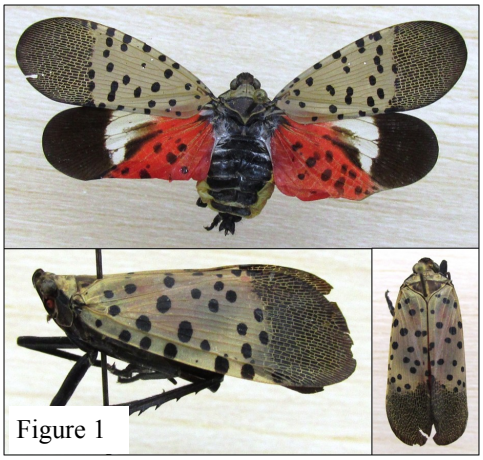

Figure 1

Photos by Nadeer Youssef

Identifying the Spotted Lanternfly

- Adults are 3/4 –1 inch (20.5-26.5 mm) long and 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) wide. The wings (tan with black spots) and body (black, white, and red) are uniquely colored and should be easy to distinguish from other North American insects (Figure 1). Adults are active from mid - July through the first frost.
- Nymphs have a similar shape to the adults but lack wings. As the nymphs grow and mature, their body color pattern changes but will always have a combination of black, white, and red. Nymphs are present from late April through July.

Life Cycle and Hosts

- The spotted lanternfly has a 1 year life cycle. Females lay clusters of eggs throughout the adult flight period, which hatch in late spring to early summer. Adults feed primarily on the tree of heaven and grapes. Nymphs develop throughout the summer and become adults in July.
- Important known hosts include almond, apple, apricot, cherry, grape, lilac, maple, nectarine, oak, peach, pine, plum, poplar, tree of heaven, and walnut.

Managing Spotted Lanternfly

- Be watchful for adults and nymphs on host plants. If found, collect and freeze specimen(s) and contact your local county extension agent or the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.
- Scraping egg clusters off branches and trunks and removing preferred hosts like tree of heaven and grape can reduce localized spotted lanternfly populations.
- Insecticides labeled for other phloem feeders have been used successfully to kill spotted lanternfly adults and nymphs
- Contact your local extension agent for additional information and recommendations.

Always follow pesticide label instructions.

Go to our website www.tnstate.edu/agriculture for additional Disaster Education Resources.