

# SPOTTED LANTERNFLY IN LOUDOUN COUNTY HELP SLOW THE SPREAD

## About the Spotted Lanternfly and Impact to Loudoun County

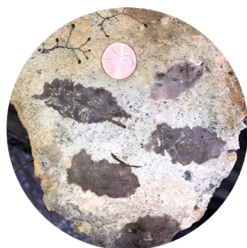
The spotted lanternfly is an invasive species of insect that can significantly damage native plants and trees that are economically important in Virginia, such as grapevines, hops, fruits and vegetables, and ornamental trees such as black walnut, oaks, maples, wild cherry, hackberry, sassafras and locusts. In addition, it is a serious nuisance pest to homeowners when in high numbers. You can help slow the spread of the insect by educating yourself. Learn how to spot the spotted lanternfly and what to do when you see it in Loudoun County.

### Characteristics of the Spotted Lanternfly:

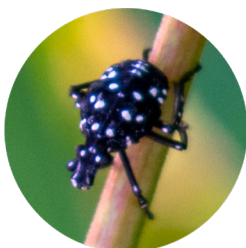
- Appearance evolves dramatically throughout its lifecycle
- Plant hopper and excellent jumper
- Poor flyer
- Very effective hitchhiker from state to state on vehicles and on goods, such as firewood
- Attacks grapes, many fruits and vegetables, hardwoods and more than 100 plants
- Does not sting or bite humans or pets
- Main host is the invasive plant called Tree of Heaven

### Inspect Your Surroundings:

Look for spotted lanternfly egg masses and live insects in the various stages of its lifecycles by checking tree trunks, under and around your vehicles and in their wheel wells, lawn furniture, fences, storage sheds, rocks, metal surfaces (especially if they are rusty) and other smooth surfaces.



**EGGS** (December-May)  
Size: About 1.5" long



**BLACK AND WHITE NYMPH** (May-August)  
Size: 4mm up to 3/8" long



**RED, BLACK AND WHITE NYMPH** (July-August)  
Size: 7/8" long or 12mm



**ADULT** (July-December)  
Size: About 1" long

## How to Prevent and Manage Spotted Lanternfly on Your Property

- Helping to slow the spread of the invasive species in Loudoun County will require everyone's help. Property owners and residents are responsible for finding and destroying spotted lanternflies on their own property.
- Keep your trees and shrubs in good health to protect them; healthy plants will better resist and recover from impacts caused by the spotted lanternfly.
- Look for trees and plants that have a black appearance on them and on the ground below because the spotted lanternfly secretes a clear and sticky substance, when feeding on a plant that is then colonized by fungi, which gives it a black appearance.
- Identify trees that are favored by spotted lanternfly. If possible and practical, [remove the Tree of Heaven](#).
- Scout for and smash spotted lanternfly egg masses at the end of September through April.
- Check your vehicle for hitchhikers if you travel to an [area that is known to be infested](#) with the spotted lanternfly before returning to Loudoun County.
- Some commercially available insecticides are effective against the spotted lanternfly. If you consider using an insecticide, there are important safety measures you should take. Before using any insecticide, always read the label and follow the instructions. Learn more about pesticide use at [loudoun.gov/spottedlanternfly](https://loudoun.gov/spottedlanternfly).

## SQUASH IT! TAKE A PICTURE! REPORT IT!

If you see the spotted lanternfly or its egg masses, squash the bugs and egg masses immediately. To help track the spread of the spotted lanternfly, take a photo and report the finding at [loudoun.gov/spottedlanternfly](https://loudoun.gov/spottedlanternfly).

