

The Spotted Lantern-fly

The spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula* (SLF), is a planthopper native to China and Southeast Asia. SLF was first detected in southeast Pennsylvania in 2014, and has since established in 14 counties in Pennsylvania, eight counties in New Jersey, two counties in Virginia, one county in Maryland, and one county in Delaware. Additionally, single spotted lanternfly detections, such as dead hitchhikers, have also been confirmed in 11 counties in New York, 10 counties in Pennsylvania, two counties in New Jersey, and one county each in Massachusetts, Delaware, and Connecticut. Counties with established populations are under state quarantines to stop the spread of the pest and meet trade agreements.

Damage from SLF comes in a few forms. They are voracious feeders during all life stages which can cause direct damage to the plant, even death. Honeydew, a sugary excrement, is a byproduct of their feeding activity. Honeydew rains down while they feed, coating the plants that they are feeding on in addition to understory plants. Honeydew then promotes the growth of sooty mold, which coats the leaves and blocks the plants' ability to photosynthesize. Many wasps and bees are attracted to this honeydew, causing potential harm to humans near coated trees and plants.

Spotted lanternfly also feeds on many important crops, such as black walnut, grapes, and hops. They have the potential to cause billions of dollars of crop loss. It is important to know that Monroe County is in quarantine. This quarantine is set up to curb the spread of SLF into other counties and states. With SLF being present at ESU, each individual on campus should be vigilant to check their vehicles and property for adults and egg masses during this time of year. Egg masses look like smudges of mud and can be hard to detect at quick glance. Everyone on

campus should take some time to learn about what SLF look like and about their lifecycle to better prevent the spread of this destructive pest.