

Pest Alert: Spotted lanternfly

Lycorma delicatula



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

INTRODUCTION

A spotted lanternfly (SLF), *Lycorma delicatula*, egg mass was found on a rail car in The Dalles during December 2023. It was removed and destroyed. The rail car had traveled from the eastern US earlier in the year. Within the last 5 years, ODA has received reports of several dead SLF associated with shipments from eastern states. No established population is known in OR.

SLF was first found in North America during 2014 in Pennsylvania. It is believed to have arrived on shipments of stone from China. Since then, SLF has been detected in 18 eastern states (CT, DE, GA, IL, IN, KY, MD, MA, MI, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, RI, TN, VA, and WV). A quarantine is in place for some infested counties, but many places where it has been detected are not quarantined (see link to map in references).

SLF prefers tree of heaven and grape vines, but it has a broad host range of more than 70 plant species that includes apples, cherry, chestnut, hops, maple, peaches, pear, pine, plum, poplar, oak, rose, and walnut.

Adults can hitchhike on vehicles, but egg masses are likely to be the primary means of introduction. Egg masses are attached to hard, smooth surfaces, which may include vehicles, containers, and other manmade items.



PEST STATUS

SLF poses a threat to tree fruit and grape production. SLF has been reported as a serious pest in its invaded and home ranges. Grapes used for wine are a high value crop in Oregon, valued at over \$330 million dollars in 2022. Hops, valued at \$85 million in 2022, are another Oregon crop at risk. SLF could also become a significant pest of many fruit tree crops such as apple, cherry, and peach.

While feeding, SLF generate a large amount of honeydew that can lead to sooty mold growth. High levels of feeding can cause weeping wounds on tree trunks, wilting, and possibly even death of plants.



Spotted lanternfly egg masses.
Unhatched on left, hatched on right.

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IDENTIFICATION

Adults: About an inch long, gray with spots on wings. They generate a great amount of honeydew.

Nymphs: The younger stages are black with white spots. The last instar nymph is red and black with white spots.

Eggs: Laid in masses about an inch long. They are typically covered with a wax coating that looks like dry mud. Egg masses where eggs have hatched will have rows of elongate holes (see images on other side). They can be laid on any hard, smooth surface.



Adult female spotted lanternfly with wings spread.



Various stages of nymphs of spotted lanternfly.
Image by Teá Kesting-Handly.

REFERENCES

USDA APHIS Spotted Lanternfly Webpage:
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/slf>

OSU Extension Spotted Lanternfly Webpage:
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/online-resource/spotted-lanternfly-resources>

Map of distribution: oda.fyi/SLF-distribution

Oregon Agricultural Statistics and Directory 2024:
oda.direct/AgStats

Wakie, T.T., L.G.Neven, W.L. Yee, and Z. Lu. 2020. Establishment Risk of *Lycorma delicatula* (Hemiptera: Fulgoridae) in the United States and Globally. *Journal of Economic Entomology*. 113(1): 306-314

USDA Technical Working group (TWG). 2017. Summary report Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula* (White 1845). 42pp.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is not offering control suggestions at this time due to our intention to prevent this pest from establishing in Oregon. **If you believe you have found SLF, notify ODA immediately.** Early detection is vital.

Online: oregoninvasiveshotline.org
Email: plant_entomologist@oda.oregon.gov
Phone: 503.986.4636

MORE INFORMATION

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Insect Pest Prevention & Management Program
26755 SW 95th Ave, Suite 101
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.986.4636 | Oregon.gov/ODA

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