

# THE INVASIVE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY



Department of Environmental Conservation

Agriculture and Markets

**SPOTTED LANTERNFLY (SLF) IS AN INVASIVE PEST** from Asia that prefers to feed on tree-of-heaven, an invasive tree species, but will also feed on - and harm - important New York State crops and plants. Grapes, hops, fruit trees, maples, and walnuts are all at risk. We need your help to protect agriculture in New York State, so please report SLF if you see it.

SLF life cycle stages from nymph to adult:

The image shows four stages of the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) life cycle from left to right:
 

- EARLY NYMPH**: A small, dark, six-legged insect. *Seen from May until July*
- LATE NYMPH**: A larger, more colorful nymph with red and black spots. *Seen from July until September*
- ADULT-WINGS FOLDED**: An adult with wings folded, showing a pattern of black spots on a brownish background. *Seen from July until December*
- SPOTTED LANTERNFLY (SLF)**: A large adult with wings spread, showing a distinctive pattern of black spots on a light-colored background and red markings on the hindwings. *(Lycorma delicatula)*

 A light blue silhouette of the adult SLF with wings spread is shown below the 'ADULT-WINGS FOLDED' stage, labeled 'actual size'.



If you believe you've seen the invasive spotted lanternfly, please send a photo and the location to:

[spottedlanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:spottedlanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov)

To find out more, please visit:

[www.agriculture.ny.gov/spottedlanternfly](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/spottedlanternfly)



## Look-Alikes: SLF is often misidentified as these other common insects

This section displays several insects and a plant that are often mistaken for the Spotted Lanternfly. A vertical ruler on the left indicates a scale of 2 inches.
 

- FIGURED TIGER MOTH** (*Apantesis figurata*): A moth with a white and black pattern on its wings.
- GYPSY MOTH** (*Lymantria dispar*): A brown moth with a mottled pattern.
- LARGE MILKWEED BUG** (*Oncopeltus fasciatus*): A black and orange bug.
- EASTERN BOX ELDER BUG** (*Boisea trivittata*): A black and orange bug.
- AMERICAN DOG TICK** (*Dermacentor variabilis*): A small, reddish-brown tick.
- PINK UNDERWING** (*Catocala concumbens*): A large moth with a prominent pink and black band on its wings.
- BUCK MOTH** (*Hemileuca maia*): A large, fuzzy moth with a white and brown pattern.
- GRAPEVINE EPIMENIS** (*Psychomorpha epimenis*): A small moth with a black and orange pattern.
- WHITE-LINED SPHINX** (*Hyles lineata*): A large moth with a white and brown pattern.
- SLENDER CLEARWING** (*Hemaris gracilis*): A moth with a red and white pattern.
- TREE-OF-HEAVEN** (*Ailanthus altissima*): A green, pinnately compound leafy plant.