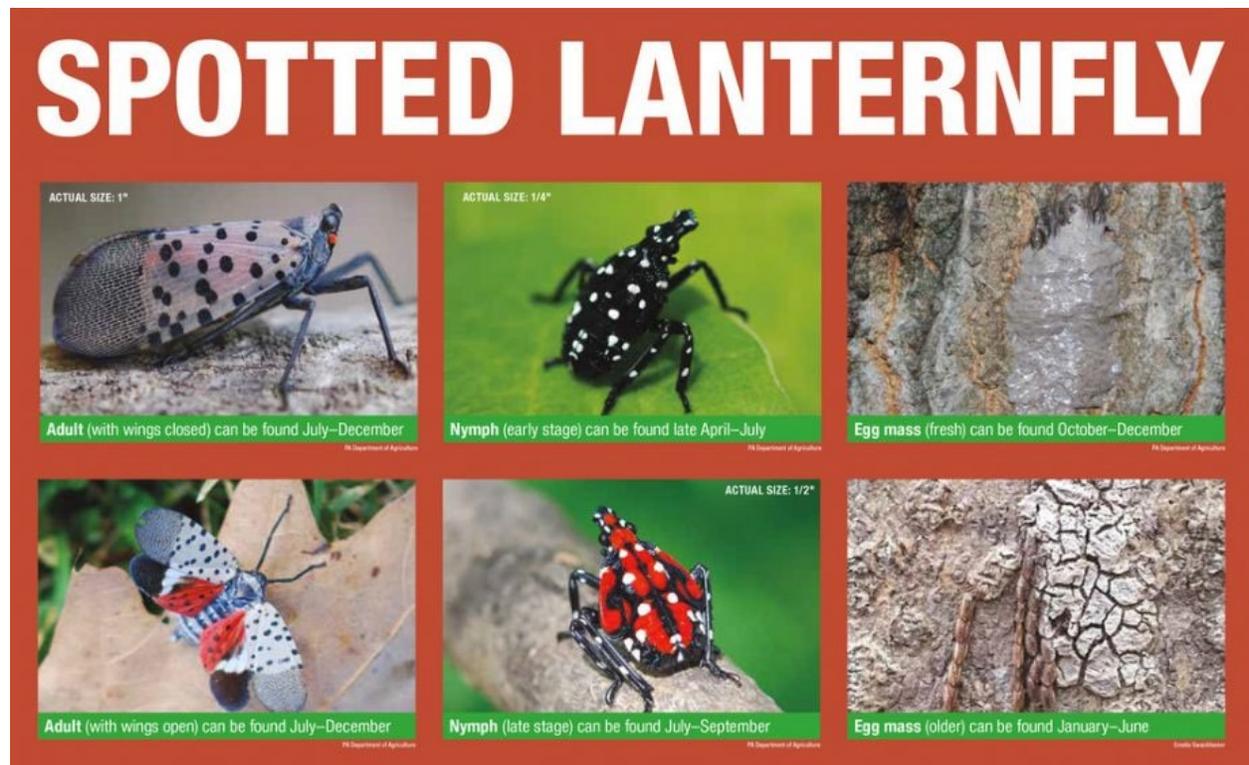


Spotted Lanternfly: What Is It & What to Do If You Find One in Shaker Heights

The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive insect that is now unfortunately present in our area. This pest has the potential to destroy considerable portions of our tree canopy. We need the public's help in identifying and destroying this insect. Late summer through November is the best time to spot the Spotted Lanternfly because it is in its most recognizable stages as a colorful winged adult plant hopper.

After hatching in the late spring, the SLF goes through four nymph stages. By midsummer, the nymph Spotted Lanternfly can be identified by its red body, roughly a half-inch in size, with black stripes and white dots. During the late summer until roughly November, the SLF is in the adult stage. These adults are larger, roughly one inch in size, with black bodies and brightly colored wings (see photo below):



Adult Spotted Lanternflies are attracted to the invasive Ailanthus tree, also known as tree of heaven, while nymphs feed on a wide range of hosts. It is important to remove any tree of heaven on your property, and monitor mature trees of any type for signs of Spotted Lanternfly:



Tree of Heaven



Close up view of a Tree of Heaven

Adults lay eggs September through December, while egg masses have been spotted from September to June. Egg masses hold about 30 to 50 eggs and are approximately one inch in size. Females can lay up to two egg masses, typically on flat surfaces including tree bark, rocks, lawn furniture, or anything left outdoors (see photo below). Although the adults don't survive through the winter, the eggs can.



Spotted Lanternfly egg mass

What If I Find a Spotted Lanternfly or an Egg Mass?

- If you encounter the Spotted Lanternfly, please squish them or stomp on them. You can squish them with a flyswatter or rolled up newspaper, for example. Please do not squish them with a hammer or other object that could damage your tree.
- If you find an egg mass, you can smear it on the tree to kill the eggs. Or you can remove **the** egg mass by scraping it off with a plastic card or putty knife. Scrape it into a bag or container filled with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer before discarding.

Report Spotted Lanternfly Sightings

Please report a suspected infestation by collecting a sample or taking a photo. Then call or email the Plant Pest Control Section of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. You have several options for reporting:

- Phone: (614) 728-6400
- Email: plantpest@agri.ohio.gov
- Online: <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/plant-health/invasive-pests/slf>
- Mobile app: EDDMapS Great Lakes Early Detection Network

Please also inform the City's forester at charles.orlowski@shakeronline.com.

Thank you.