Spotted lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula)

A **damaging pest of vineyards**, the spotted lanternfly prefers **tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima)** but can feed on a wide variety of plants.

It can spread over long distances through hitchhiking, as its eggs can be laid on any plant or object, such as stone slabs or containers.

Native to Asia, it has been in the USA since 2014 and has spread to Canada**. First outbreaks in Europe were detected in Hungary and Moldova in 2026.**

Adults and nymphs:

- adults have pink/grey front wings, covered with black spots. Part of the rear wings are bright red in colour
- early stage nymphs are black and white in colour
- last stage nymphs are red, black and white in colour

Egg masses:

- are dull grey/brown in colour
- can be difficult to detect as they look like a smudge of mud

Look out for egg masses on imported goods, and the distinctive nymphs and adults.

If you suspect it, report it by visiting https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/ or use the QR code.



Adult spotted lanternfly © Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture, Bugwood.org



Late stage nymphs (red, black and white) alongside adults with spotted pink / grey front wings © Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org



Spotted lanternfly egg masses © Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org

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