

helpline@defra.gov.uk  
www.gov.uk/defra

5<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Madam/Sir,

## Rapid Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on *Lycorma delicatula* (spotted lanternfly)

I am writing to seek your views on a UK Pest Risk Analysis for *Lycorma delicatula*. A link to the rapid PRA can be found at the website given below:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/pest-risk-analyses/>

**We would welcome your views and comments on the PRA and the proposals for future action.**

In submitting any comments you may wish to focus on the summary, key uncertainties and conclusion sections of the risk assessments and to consider the following:

- Are any factual corrections required?
- Your view on the appropriateness of the suggested proposals for future actions?
- Can you provide any additional information (or links to other sources of information) that may help address uncertainty identified in the assessment/management measures?
- Are there any risks that have not been adequately considered?
- Have you reviewed the risk assessment and consider that you have nothing further to add?

This review applies to the UK and is being conducted by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, with the agreement of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Government. The objective of this consultation is to gather views from

all interested sectors on the UK position. We will take all comments made into account in developing the UK position.

## Background

*Lycorma delicatula* (spotted lanternfly) is a hemipteran insect, native to parts of Asia and now also present in the USA. It is a pest with a wide host range and has a particular preference for *Ailanthus altissima* (tree of heaven).

*Lycorma delicatula* is not known to be present in the UK or the rest of Europe and has been spreading rapidly in the northeast states of the United States of America (USA) by hitchhiking in egg form having first been reported there in 2014. *L. delicatula* has been added to GB legislation as a Provisional Quarantine Pest, and this PRA has been developed to determine if it should become a Regulated Quarantine Pest.

In general, *L. delicatula* causes economic, environmental, and social impact not by feeding damage but by measures imposed on industries by trading partners to prevent *L. delicatula* spread. The main industry directly impacted by feeding damage in the UK would be the grapevine industry and to a lesser extent, the soft fruit industry. The UK is on the edge of climatic suitability of *L. delicatula*, and the south areas have the most suitable climate for *L. delicatula* as well as many of its preferred host, *Ailanthus altissima*.

Given evidence of movement into new countries and impacts seen in the USA, it may be expected that effects may occur in the UK if the pest were to be introduced and establish. While the UK is on the edge of climatic suitability, this pest has not yet reached the limits of its climatic range and so precautionary action is suggested.

## Recommendations for action

Statutory action through regulation as a Quarantine pest.

All responses should be sent to [plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk](mailto:plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk)

Responses should be received by **28<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs)

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone

asks for the information under freedom of information legislation. However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

Yours faithfully

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