What is the spotted lanternfly?
The invasive spotted lanternfly (SLF) is a threat to many important commercial crops and affects our enjoyment of the outdoors. The insect feeds on a wide range of plants and trees, with damage seen in vineyards, nurseries, and urban, suburban and rural environments.

Where has spotted lanternfly been detected?
They were first discovered in Pennsylvania and are rapidly spreading across the United States. They are good hitchhikers, clinging to or laying egg masses on vehicles, trucks, trains, and outdoor items. California is an ideal habitat for the pest. To view a map of where they have been found, visit https://www.stopslf.org/where-is-slf/.

What damage does spotted lanternfly cause?
This destructive pest threatens California’s vineyards, nurseries, and urban, suburban, and rural environments. The pest feeds on over 100 different plant species, favoring tree of heaven and grapevines, where it causes serious damage such as oozing sap, wilting, leaf curling, dieback, and plant death. It also excretes lots of honeydew when it feeds, encouraging the growth of black sooty mold.

Where would I find spotted lanternfly?
They can be found on many types of plants, including tree of heaven, grapevines, fruit and nut trees, and ornamentals. The eggs can be found on flat surfaces, wood, rock, and metal objects, such as grills, trailers, equipment, and vehicles.

How is the California Department of Food and Agriculture protecting California from spotted lanternfly?
The California Department of Food and Agriculture is protecting the state from spotted lanternfly through inspections, visual surveys, trainings, research, outreach, and education. Many states, including California, have established quarantine regulations to help prevent this pest from spreading. Learn more at http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/slf/.

What can I do?
Spotted lanternfly is very distinct looking both as a nymph and an adult. But the egg masses can be hard to spot, making it easy to transport them on vehicles and other outdoor items.
- Inspect trees and plants for signs of the pest, especially tree of heaven.
- Look for egg masses on outdoor items including vehicles, trailers, and other smooth surfaces.
- Report suspected finds.

Frequently Asked Questions

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