

The Spotted Lanternfly

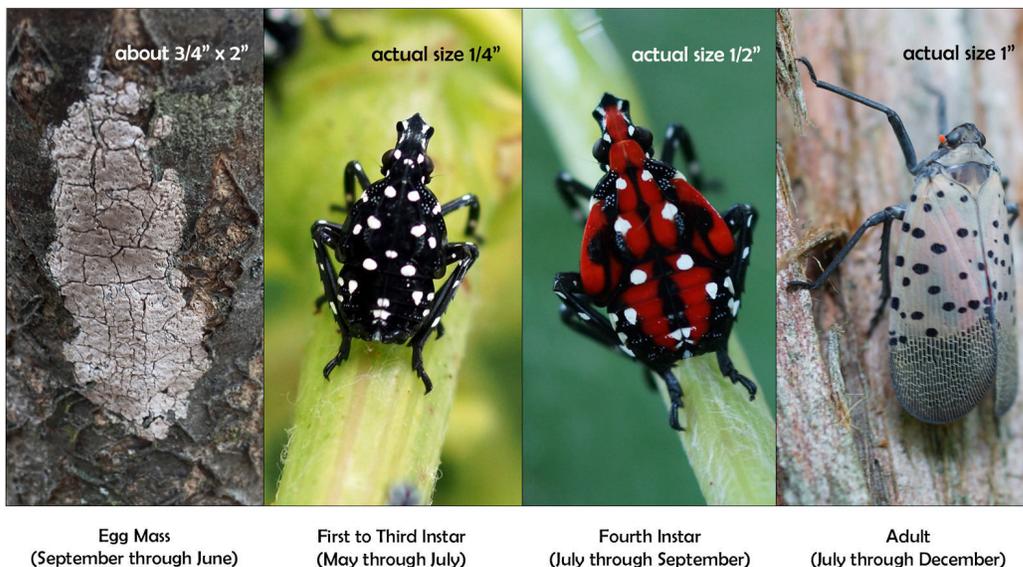
The Spotted Lanternfly has landed in East Greenwich and is poised to wreck havoc in our landscape. All citizens should be aware of the destructiveness of this invasive insect and be armed with the knowledge of how to combat its proliferation. The first thing to do is to learn to identify it. The Spotted Lanternfly is most often noticed in one of the following forms with the bottom two images being the adult stage (wings closed and wings open):



The next step in learning how to combat this destructive insect is to understand its behavior. The Spotted Lanternfly has plant preferences. Its main preference is the invasive tree *Ailanthus altissimo* commonly called the Tree-of-Heaven found in many of our landscaped yards and in wooded areas. Even when it lays its eggs on other trees, the Tree-of-Heaven is often found nearby and is believed to play a role in its life cycle. The Spotted Lanternfly sucks the sap from trees often causing a sticky honey like substance to exude from the tree. When it is not feeding, the nymphs seem to like to march up and down tree trunks. The adult lays its eggs on tree trunks, wooden fence posts or objects, and even on some non wooden surfaces.

Besides squishing or capturing and placing the adults in a jar of rubbing alcohol, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture recommends citizens help combat this destructive invasive by becoming familiar with the life cycle.

Spotted Lanternfly Life Cycle



What Can I Do?

Throughout the year

All year it is important to remove the Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven). This is an invasive tree that is integral to the life cycle of the Spotted Lanternfly. It is recommended that all female trees be destroyed. Save 10% of male trees to act as a lure.



June thru early September

The remaining male trees should be injected with a systemic insecticide. This is an insecticide that affects the whole tree making it toxic for the insect to consume.

June-early September Apply systemic insecticides



October thru May

Destroy their egg masses. The most effective method is to scrape them off of tree trunks or wherever they are found with an old credit card into a plastic bag and add alcohol.

October – May Destroy Egg Masses



Egg mass in November



Egg mass in March

May thru August

Because the nymphs move up and down tree trunks, an effective method of killing them according to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is to wrap sticky bands on tree trunks.

May-August
Kill nymphs with sticky bands



All citizens in East Greenwich are encouraged to do their part to help keep our township safe from the havoc caused by the Spotted Lanternfly.