

New Invasive Insect in PA

(from Fall 2017 Township newsletter)



Spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula* is a new invasive insect in Pennsylvania and in the United States. It was first detected in 2014 in Berks County. The insect is very distinctive and does not look like other insects in Pennsylvania. It has spotted wings with red tips. The body has a black and yellow winged section. Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is currently working with Penn State Extension and Researchers, as well as DCNR,

Kutztown University, Fish and Game Commission, USDA and local municipalities to learn more about this new insect and how to control it. Currently the efforts are for eradication. The Department feels with the assistance of the community and others we can stop this invasive pest. We appreciate your time and efforts in making sure we do not move this insect out of quarantine areas. For more information please go to: www.agriculture.pa.gov/spotted lanternfly.

This insect is known to feed on over 25 species of trees, shrubs and vines. Some of these include: Grape, Birch, Willow, Poplar, and Maple. The insect also likes to go to the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus* sp.). In Korea, this insect is an invasive pest and has been documented in killing grape vines. The egg masses have 48-50 eggs within and are covered with a grey/brown substance that looks very much like mud or dirt, see the picture below. The females will lay the eggs on any hard surface such as motor vehicles, stones, barrels, posts, grills, wood, etc. They do not lay their eggs on grass clippings or leaves. If you find egg masses, please scrape them off. To scrape them use a scraper, large stick, etc. and scrape in a downward motion. You can then place them in a plastic bag with alcohol or hand sanitizer and dispose of them in the trash.

