

FACT SHEET



Spotted Lanternfly

The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), or *Lycorma delicatula*, is an emerging biosecurity threat to many horticultural industries, including kiwifruit. The potential impacts are unclear, but we do know kiwifruit is a reported host.

SLF is hard to control and is a proven invader capable of flying and hitchhiking on inanimate objects.

The pest has caused economic impacts to the winegrape industry and was most recently detected in the USA in 2014 where eradication efforts were unsuccessful. SLF has now spread to 18 states across the North-East of the country.

Identification

Adult SLF resemble a moth with a wider abdomen. They can be recognised by their red hindwings and spotted forewings. You often won't see the red underwing if the insect isn't flying. Look for white, translucent wings with black spots. Adults can be up to 2.5cm long.

Juveniles are black with white spots, and turn red as they develop

Eggs may be laid in a mass of 30-50 and covered in a yellowish brown wax. SLF don't just lay egg masses on trees. They will use just about any smooth outdoor surface. Containers, outdoor furniture, mowers, BBQs, tile, stone, outdoor play equipment, and decks are all possible egg mass sites.



Above: Spotted Lanternfly adult



Above: Spotted Lanternfly egg mass on tree bark



Above: Spotted Lanternfly masses on apple trees

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Impacts

SLF attacks over 70 host species, including grapes, stonefruit, pipfruit and kiwifruit. However, the preferred host is Tree Of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) pictured on the right, which is present in New Zealand and considered an invasive weed.

Kiwifruit is a reported host in Korea and China but impacts are unknown. SLF has caused economic impacts to vineyards in Korea.

Adults and nymphs feed on young stems and bark tissues with their piercing and sucking mouthparts and excrete large quantities of liquid. Extensive feeding results in oozing wounds on the trunk, wilting and death of branches.

SLF has the potential to severely impact the kiwifruit industry through the accumulation of sooty mould on fruit from feeding excretions, ultimately rendering the fruit unmarketable. The pest also aggregates and may create a nuisance in urban areas.



Control

Chemical control is difficult as SLF tends to fly out of orchards when sprayed, only to return later.

The pest is reported to be susceptible to broad-spectrum pyrethroids, organophosphate and neonicotinoid insecticides. Cultural control methods are vital for managing SLF; such as host plant removal, egg mass removal, sticking banding, the use of trap trees laced with insecticide and netting.

In the image below, a tree has been banded with sticky paper (or tape can be used) to stop SLF nymphs crawling up the tree to find a place to feed.



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Distribution

SLF is native to northern China with distribution throughout Asia.

In 2014 it was reported in Pennsylvania where it has now spread across 18 states in the Northeast USA. It is thought to have entered as egg masses on landscaping stone from China. Eradication was unsuccessful. The impacts of SLF have been described by some in the USA as worse than Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB).

