



NYC Parks

# Spotted Lanternfly



Spotted lanternfly egg masses. Uncovered (top) and covered (bottom)



Spotted lanternfly adult (*Lycorma delicatula*) next to a standard 12-inch ruler

## WHAT IS SPOTTED LANTERNFLY?

Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*—SLF) is an invasive planthopper, first discovered in New York City in July 2020. It is a threat to a wide range of trees and agricultural crops including walnut, grapes, hops, apples, blueberries, and stone fruits. The Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is its preferred host tree and is required for its reproduction. SLF has the potential of damaging natural areas and becoming a nuisance in landscapes..

## WHAT DOES A SLF INFESTATION LOOK LIKE?

SLF does not kill trees it infests. However it can weaken a tree's natural defenses, making it vulnerable to other pests and diseases. You can identify an infestation by looking for:

- Inch-long, putty-like egg masses that may crack throughout the winter
- Dense clusters of the insects on tree trunks and branches
- Sticky “honeydew” with a distinct odor, which is excreted by the insects and may be covered in black “sooty” mold

## WHAT IS NYC PARKS DOING ABOUT SLF?

- Caring for infested trees will follow Parks’ Tree Risk Management program—pruning and removing trees as they pose a risk to the public.
- Parks is participating in an interagency work group with federal, state, and local agencies to coordinate surveying and treatment approaches.
- Parks is not currently considering widespread treatment due to uncertainty of the success of chemical treatments and the prohibitive cost; however, we may treat limited high-value trees at risk of infection if it is deemed necessary.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Report any signs of infestation to NYC Parks via email to [Forest.Health@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Forest.Health@parks.nyc.gov). Please include photos, location of infestation, and details of property damage. Please also report the finding to NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets at [survey123.arcgis.com/share/a08d60f6522043f5bd04229e00acdd63](https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a08d60f6522043f5bd04229e00acdd63).

You can help prevent the spread of SLF by refraining from moving firewood, outdoor furniture, and other outdoor items that may contain SLF egg masses.

Local infestations can also be controlled by destroying egg masses in a sealed container of alcohol or hand sanitizer, or by double bagging and disposing of them in the garbage.



Spotted lanternfly infestation