Found first in Berks County, Pennsylvania, in September 2014. Found for the first time in Virginia in Frederick County during January 2018. This Asian insect is a serious agricultural pest in Korea and is now threatening orchards and vineyards in PA. The threat to forests is unknown but of great concern.

Adults (1 inch long) lay eggs in fall on smooth-barked trees such as tree-of-heaven, Ailanthus altissima, but any smooth bark tree will do. Egg masses (1 to 1 1/2 inches long) are visible all winter, and hatch in spring. Spotted lanternfly infestations spread when egg masses laid on vehicles, firewood, stones, and other objects are moved to new locations.

Nymphs cluster and feed primarily on leaves and branches of 70 tree species, especially orchard fruits and grape vines (wild and cultivated) from May into July. The pests exude honeydew sap, which attracts sooty mold that ruins fruit crops. Nymphs feed, but less heavily, on forest and landscape trees.

Adults primarily feed on branches and trunks of tree-of-heaven and willow, but also on other forest and landscape trees, from July to November. Feeding causes weeping wounds and reduces tree vigor.

Prefers, and may even require, tree-of-heaven (ailanthus) trees to complete its lifecycle — current recommendations are to kill 90% of these trees and trap spotted lanternflies on the remaining ones. See Blue Ridge PRISM factsheet for how to control the nonnative, invasive tree-of-heaven.

**REPORT SIGHTINGS TO:**
VA Office of Plant Industry Services  
(804) 786-3515

For more see: https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/ENTO/ENTO-18o/ENTO-18o.html   www.BlueRidgePRISM.org