

Here's everything you need to know about spotted lanternfly egg masses and other insect lookalikes



MICKAYLA MILLER | Website Producer | Sep 27, 2020



Adult spotted lanternflies cover the eggs with a white secretion that protects the eggs from parasites, predators and the weather outside. Emelie Swackhamer, Horticulture Extension Education at Penn State Extension

Spotted lanternflies — the invasive, crop-destroying insect — are now fully grown and will be laying eggs through December.

After December, the adults will largely die off, and the eggs will continue to develop through June, according to Penn State Extension.



LOCAL NEWS

[Spotted lanternflies enter adult, egg laying stage: here's what you need to know \[video, photos\]](#)



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Here's what you need to know about lanternfly eggs.

1. Lanternfly eggs are small.



These are both spotted lanternfly egg masses. The brown one, above, is a weathered egg mass with emergence holes. The white one, below, is a newer egg mass.

Emelie Swackhamer, Horticulture Extension Education at Penn State Extension

Spotted lanternflies typically lay 35 to 50 eggs at a time in a flat egg mass that runs about an inch long, says Emelie Swackhamer, a horticulture expert with the extension.

Spotted lanternflies also will lay their eggs individually, and each one looks like a grain of rice.

2. Lanternfly eggs can stick on practically any solid surface.

This includes trees, fence posts, lumber, playground equipment, lawn furniture upholstery and rusty metal. "The eggs have an adhesive surface," Swackhamer said. This allows them to stick in many different locations.

3. Eggs are coated in a protective secretion from the female egg-layer's body.



Multiple spotted lanternfly eggs masses coalesce at the base of this *Ailanthus Altissima* tree.

Emelie Swackhamer, Horticulture Extension Education at Penn State Extension

Spotted lanternflies typically lay 35 to 50 eggs at a time per egg mass, though, those numbers sometimes can vary, Swackhamer said.

The egg-layer can produce a secretion that when dried down looks like mud. It can protect the eggs during the harsh winter seasons, Swackhamer said, as well as predators and parasites.

4. Spotted lanternfly eggs can sometimes be mistaken for other insect eggs and plants. Here's what to look out for:



The spotted lanternfly egg mass, left, is muddy in appearance. The gypsy moth eggs, right, are covered in brown hairs and appear fuzzy. Destroy both, when possible, as both species are invasive in Pennsylvania.

Emelie Swackhamer, Horticulture Extension Education at Penn State Extension