

# Possible Look-alikes of Spotted Lanternfly Egg Masses in Virginia

Authored by Theresa A. Dellinger, Diagnostician, and Eric Day, Lab Manager, Insect Identification Lab, Entomology, Virginia Tech

## Introduction

Egg masses of the spotted lantern fly, *Lycorma delicatula* (White), are usually covered with a smooth tan to gray colored coating when fresh (Fig.1). This coating may crack and fall off with age, exposing eggs laid in vertical rows underneath (Fig. 2). Some egg masses are laid with only some or no covering at all. Here are a few other insect egg masses commonly found in Virginia to help you recognize those of the spotted lantern fly. Sizes are not to scale.



Figure 1. Spotted lanternfly egg mass (Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org).



Figure 2. Spotted lanternfly egg mass without a covering and showing hatched eggs (Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org).



Figure 3. Spongy moth (formerly gypsy moth) egg masses (Ward Upham, Karla Salp, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org).



Figure 4. Eastern tent caterpillar egg mass (Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org).



Figure 5. Fall cankerworm eggs (PA Dept. of Cons. & Nat. Resources, Forestry, Bugwood.org).



Figure 6. Wheel bug eggs and newly hatched nymphs (Johnny N. Dell, Bugwood.org).



Figure 7. Chinese mantis egg mass (Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org).



Figure 8. Carolina mantid egg mass (Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org).

## Questions?

Contact your local [Cooperative Extension office](#) for more information about spotted lanternfly, or visit the [Spotted Lanternfly in Virginia](#) website at <https://ext.vt.edu/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/spotted-lanternfly.html>.

## Revised

Theresa A. Dellinger, February 17, 2023.

Visit Virginia Cooperative Extension: [ext.vt.edu](https://ext.vt.edu)

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

2023

ENTO-276NP (ENTO-547NP)