

Spotted Lantern Fly



The Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive pest that has spread across the U.S. since its arrival in Pennsylvania in 2014, has recently been detected in Ashburn Village. This pest has now infested at least 20 states and was first found in the Ashburn area in July. Ashburn Farm is committed to being vigilant about the possible spread of these pests into our neighborhood.

The Lanternfly primarily infests Trees of Heaven but also attacks other native trees like red maples and willows, causing sap leakage and fungal growth. This pest poses a significant threat to local agriculture, particularly the \$2B Virginia wine industry, as it feeds on grapevines. The impact on Loudoun's vineyards is evident, with Fiori Winery in Maryland experiencing a 50% reduction in production in 2022 due to the Lanternfly.

Residents should notify the HOA office, General Manager, Ron Rector at gm@afhoa.net about any Lanternfly sightings. Keeping vigilant and informed will help manage and potentially eradicate this pest from Ashburn.

Here's the county site for more information: <https://www.loudoun.gov/spottedlanternfly>

Residents are advised to squash any spotted lanternflies they encounter, as they are past the nymph stage where less aggressive treatments would have been effective.