



Possible Spotted Lanternfly Adult Look-alikes in Virginia

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Introduction

The adult spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula* (White), has a very distinctive appearance with black spots and bars on the upper wings (Fig. 1) and red, black, and white markings on the hindwings (Fig. 2). Adults measure about 1" long and 0.5" wide. A few other insects in Virginia have similar colors and/or distinctive markings, but a closer look reveals that the invasive spotted lanternfly is easily recognizable from these other possible look-alike insects (Figs. 3-9). Sizes are not to scale.



Figure 1. Adult spotted lanternfly (T. Dellinger, Virginia Tech).



Figure 2. Adult spotted lanternfly (E. Day, Virginia Tech).



Figure 3. Harnessed tiger moth (Mark Dreiling, Bugwood.org).



Figure 4. Virgin tiger moth (Elizabeth McCarty, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org).



Figure 5. Bella moth (Eddie McGriff, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org).



Figure 6. Ailanthus webworm (David Cappaert, Bugwood.org).



Figure 7. Buck moth (Gerald J. Lenhard, Louisiana State University, Bugwood.org).



Figure 8. Giant leopard moth (Sturgis McKeever, Georgia Southern University, Bugwood.org).



Figure 9. Oak treehopper (Larry R. Barber, USDA Forest Service, 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.

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