

Pest Alert

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)

What is the BMSB?

The exotic brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is an agricultural pest that has been recorded in Asia, notably China, Japan and Korea and can cause widespread damage to fruit and vegetable crops. In Japan, it is a pest to soybean and fruit crops. In the U.S., BMSB feeds, beginning in late May or early June, on a wide range of fruits, vegetables and other host plants including peaches, apples, green beans, soybeans, cherries, raspberries and pears. It is a sucking insect, a “true bug”, that uses its proboscis to pierce the host plant in order to feed. This feeding results, in part, in the formation of dimpled or necrotic areas on the outer surface of fruits, leaf tipping, seed loss and possible transmission of plant pathogens. All instars (development stages) of BMSB can cause damage to important crops and vegetables and transmit diseases to the plants.

BMSB can make its way into the country in imported cargo, used cars and machinery and even through personal effects.

BMSB has recently been intercepted at the New Zealand and Australian borders. In New Zealand, BMSBs were intercepted on a vessel carrying cars from Japan whereas in Australia BMSB were discovered in cargo/goods arriving from Italy.

What does bmsb look like?

Adults are approximately 1.4 – 1.7 cm long, with a distinctive brown “shield” shape. The underside is white or tan while the legs and antennae are brown with white banding.

Eggs are light green, barrel shaped, and found in clusters of 20 – 30 eggs. These eggs are laid on the underside of leaves. Young nymph stages are yellowish brown, mottled with black and red. Older nymph stages are darker, with the banding pattern on the legs and antennae beginning to appear.

How to identify BMSB?



Key distinguishing features of the adult BMSB are:

- its size (14–17mm);
- white banding on the antennae;
- alternate black and white markings on the abdomen.



Clusters of Eggs on the leaf.



Newly hatched eggs



Adult BMSB



Nymph stage of BMSB



Adult BMSB



4th instar nymph of BMSB



Adult BMSB



Last instar nymph of BMSB

Where to look for?

BMSB can be found in large numbers seeking shelter from cold weather in crevices or protected areas of shipping containers, vehicles, boats, caravans, machinery and personal stored items.

What to do if you find any suspect BMSB?

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