



# BROWN MARMORATED STINKBUG

National Invasive Species Awareness Week 2016



The Brown Marmorated Stinkbug (*Halyomorpha halys*) is a pest insect native to Japan, China, Korea, and Taiwan. They were accidentally introduced in North America, probably as stowaways on packing crates from Asia. Some records show they were first collected in Allentown, PA in 1996, but were likely here earlier than that. They are now a severe pest in PA, NJ, NY, DE, MD, WV, VA, and NC, and have been reported in 42 US states and 2 Canadian provinces as of 2015.

Having a diverse palette, these pests are polyphagous (eat many things) and have an assortment of host plants in which they feed. In Asia, they attack shade and fruit trees and various vegetable and leguminous crops, like soybeans. In North America, that list has expanded to include crops such as apples, beans, corn, peaches, peppers, and tomatoes. The brown marmorated stinkbug has become a serious agricultural pest in the United States, and is considered a season-long pest in US orchards.

When stinkbugs are disturbed or crushed, they omit a 'stinky' odor from glands under their wings. The smell becomes more apparent when multiple stink bugs have been disturbed.

Stinkbugs pose no threat to humans, but they are a nuisance when they enter homes. They are more of a problem to farmers because of the damage they can cause to crops. To prevent stinkbugs from entering your house, seal cracks around windows, doors, siding, utility pipes, and other openings with caulk. Applying pesticides in the fall just before the bugs start to invade houses can be done, but is not highly recommended because most pesticides break down in sunlight, therefore decreasing the effectiveness of the pesticide. Currently, there is research being conducted on a parasitoid wasp as a potential biological control method for the brown marmorated stinkbug. In addition, the USDA has identified an "attractant pheromone", which could potentially be used in pheromone traps.

Visit [www.stopbmsb.org](http://www.stopbmsb.org) for more information!

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