



Priority pest: Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB)



Brown marmorated stink bug
(*Halyomorpha halys*)



The pest and its impacts

Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is a serious agricultural pest. Originally from Asia, it is now established across North and South America and Europe.

BMSB is not found in Australia but its tendency to hitchhike in cargo, freight, electronics, and luggage makes it a high biosecurity risk.

Feeding on a wide range of more than 300 plant species, BMSB causes major damage to fruit and vegetable crops and ornamental plants. If the bugs became established in Australia, BMSB infestations could impact growers, affecting both crop yield and marketability of crops including sweet corn, tree nuts, and pome fruits such as pears and apples.

BMSB looks like other brown stinkbugs present in Australia, except it is larger and has distinctive markings. Adult BMSB are mottled brown, shield shaped, with distinctive black and white banding around the outer edge of the abdomen and white bands on the antennae.



What to look for

BMSB causes major damage to crops and ornamental plants. The signs include:



- Brown marmorated stink bugs are attracted to light. Look for unusual groups in or on buildings when the weather cools down.



- Older nymphs are darker than adults, with small lateral spines around the front edge of the body and banding on the legs and antennae beginning to appear.



- BMSB emits a foul odour when disturbed or crushed.



- BMSB eggs and nymphs. BMSB lay light-green to white barrel-shaped eggs in clusters of 25-30 on the underside of leaves.

How you can help: look, act, report

Check buildings and vegetation, including wild and ornamental plants, for adult BMSB sheltering during winter. If BMSB were present in Australia, it is likely to find shelter from April, and emerge from late September.

If you see a bug that looks like BMSB, catch it and report it immediately so we have the best chance of eradicating it. Every report you send plays a part in protecting WA's agricultural industries, natural environment and lifestyle.



Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter
via app or online
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