



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

At a glance

Features: Shield shape, adults are mottled brown, white bands on antennae and sides of abdomen

Where is it found: East Asia, North America and Europe

Pathways: Hitchhiker inside shipping containers, machinery and packaging

At risk: Agricultural industries and ornamental plants



Adult BMSB by Melinda Fawver, Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee, USA

Why is it a concern?

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is high on Australia's radar of exotic pests as it presents a serious threat to our horticultural industries. It is not present in Australia but is regularly intercepted at the border.

BMSB causes damage to fruit and vegetables resulting in produce that is unfit for sale. Adults generally feed on fruit while nymphs feed on leaves, stems and fruit. Stink bugs pierce the outer surface of fruit injecting saliva and sucking out juices. This causes dimpling of the fruit's surface and rotting inside the fruit.

Large numbers can congregate and invade houses, buildings and other structures while emitting an offensive odour.

During warmer parts of the year, BMSB can be found feeding on the reproductive parts of plants. As the weather cools in autumn and through winter, BMSB look for a safe hibernation spot to overwinter. They shelter in cracks and crevices in buildings, machinery, containers and packing crates which are then imported to Australia.

In the 2017-18 summer season BMSB was found in warehouses in western Sydney, where they had hitchhiked on imported goods. A successful eradication program saw NSW declared BMSB free in August 2018, but ongoing vigilance is required for this sneaky hitchhiker, especially between September and April each year.

How can you spot it?

Adults

- 12-17 mm long and 7-10 mm wide
- mottled brown shield shaped body
- white banding on antennae
- alternate light and dark bands on side margins of abdomen

Juveniles (nymphs)

- Young nymph stages are yellowish brown and mottled with black and red
- Older nymph stages are darker with banding pattern on legs and antennae appearing

Eggs

- Light green in colour
- Barrel shaped
- Laid in clusters on the underside of plant leaves

Report it!



If you think you have found brown marmorated stink bugs (or any other unusual insect), report it through the **FREE MyPestGuide Reporter app** www.agric.wa.gov.au/apps/mypestguide-reporter. Select 'Make a Report' and choose 'Peri-urban Environmental Biosecurity Network' from the 'Send Report to' list.

Or report by calling the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881** or email biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

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