

Ontario's Least Wanted: Report the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Help Protect Our Crops

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) is an invasive insect pest from Asia. It is now established in parts of southern Ontario. Early detection in new geographic areas is important for limiting economic loss to Ontario agriculture.

Two white bands on each antenna are important distinguishing features. Mature nymphs have many of the same features as adults but lack wings

Rounded shoulder tips

Inward pointing white triangles on edge of abdomen

Adult

White band on legs

Nymph



Shoulders lack serrated edges, with a single spine below the eye (adults)



Underside of BMSB is paler than the top side and is speckled near the edges

Photo credit | Cr dit photo : Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org

A Nuisance to Homeowners

Adults often overwinter in human-made structures including homes and other buildings. In areas where populations are high, BMSB can become a major nuisance pest due to aggregations found indoors through the fall and winter.

Damaging Appetite

BMSB has a very broad host range that includes tree fruit, berries, grapes, vegetables, corn, soybeans, landscape trees, ornamental shrubs and garden plants. Feeding damage affects yield and marketability of commercial crops.

Don't Confuse BMSB with these Stinkers

None of these look-alikes have the two white bands on their antennae that characterize BMSB.



Photo credit: Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org

Western conifer seed bugs are longer and narrower than BMSB.



Photo credit: S.A. Marshall, School of Environmental Sciences, University of Guelph

Spined soldier bugs are beneficial stink bug species that attack plant pests. They have pointed shoulder tips.



Photo credit: Steven Valley, Oregon Department of Agriculture

Rough stink bugs (several species) are about the same size as BMSB but have heavily-toothed shoulders.



Photo credit: David Cappaert, Michigan State University

Brown stink bugs (several species) are smaller than BMSB and have serrated shoulders.

BMSB is an Excellent Hitchhiker

BMSB moves into new areas by hitching a ride in shipping containers, cargo and vehicles. It has been intercepted on a wide variety of trade goods coming into Ontario from infested areas. Populations of the stink bug tend to become established in urban areas first then disperse to agricultural crops.

Report BMSB Findings

If you think you have found BMSB, call the Agriculture Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300 or send an email to ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca.

Visit ontario.ca\stinkbug for photos showing BMSB damage, management and findings in Ontario.