

Pest Alert: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Introduction

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), *Halyomorpha halys*, is an Asian species first found in North America in Pennsylvania in 1996 and in Oregon (Portland) in 2004. It is now established in at least 15 states and specimens have been found in at least 14 others. Until 2010, it was not known to be established in Oregon outside of the Portland metropolitan area, although a few specimens had been found in Salem and in Sandy. As of 2010, BMSB established in Aurora, McMinnville, Salem, and from Portland west to Hillsboro, south to Tualatin, and east to Sandy.

BMSB: a threat to Oregon agriculture

BMSB is considered a major agricultural pest in Asia, attacking many crops. It is a significant agricultural pest in some areas of the eastern US, attacking tree fruits, peppers, tomatoes, corn, berries, grapes, soybeans, melons, and even damaging young trees by feeding through the bark. BMSB is known to feed on more than 80 species of plants and undoubtedly attacks many more. No commercial agricultural damage by BMSB has yet been reported in Oregon, although some home gardeners have reported extensive damage to beans, cucumbers, raspberries, and several species of ornamental plants.



Recognizing BMSB

Adult BMSB are unique among Oregon stink bugs because they have antennae with distinct white bands. Most Oregon stink bugs have all dark antennae with at most less distinct pale markings. The Oregon stink bugs most likely to be confused with BMSB are rough stink bugs such as *Brochymena quadripustulata*. Rough stink bugs not only have dark antennae, but the front side margins of the thorax (the "shoulder") are toothed and indented while BMSB have smooth, even "shoulders." The pictures above show all of these features.



BMSB eggs are laid late spring or summer in clusters on the undersides of leaves.

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Newly hatched BMSB are orange and black.

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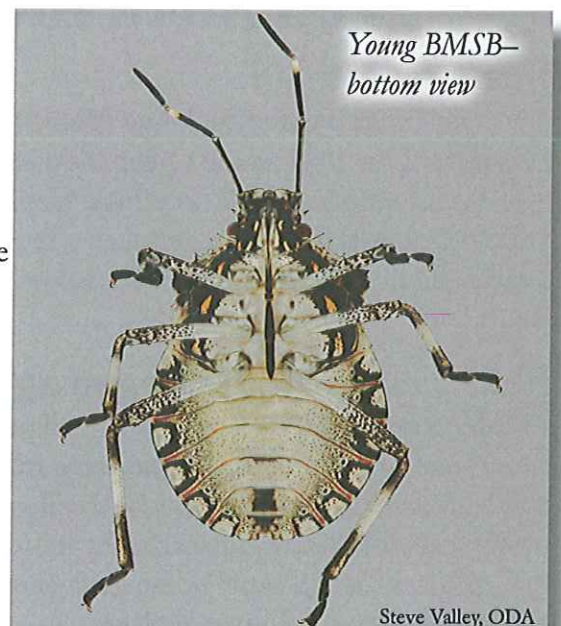
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Young BMSB—top view

Steve Valley, ODA

Later stages of BMSB young have distinct pale bands on the antennae and legs and are also very pale underneath.



Young BMSB—bottom view

Steve Valley, ODA

BMSB: Home invader

Like several other insects in Oregon, such as box elder bugs and Asian multicolored lady bird beetles, BMSB seeks winter shelter by invading residences and buildings in the fall and early winter. Sometimes BMSB can enter homes in large numbers, making them a nuisance, especially given the pungent odor BMSB release when disturbed. Fortunately, they pose no threat to structures or to human or animal health. The best solution is to prevent their entry in the first place by sealing gaps and openings to the outside with weather-stripping, caulking, or other methods.

Reporting BMSB

Because BMSB has become a significant agricultural pest in the East (see following damage images below), it is important to determine its overall distribution in Oregon. If you think you've found BMSB outside of the areas mentioned in the introduction, please contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the **Oregon Invasive Species Hotline, 1-866-INVADER (1-866-468-2337)**, or e-mail ODA's taxonomic entomologist, James LaBonte, at jlabonte@oda.state.or.us.



apple

Maryland Dept. of Agriculture



corn (feeding damage through the husk)

Maryland Dept. of Agriculture



young brown marmorated stink bug

Gary Berron, USDA APHIS, Bugwood.org



adult brown marmorated stink bug

David R. Lance, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org



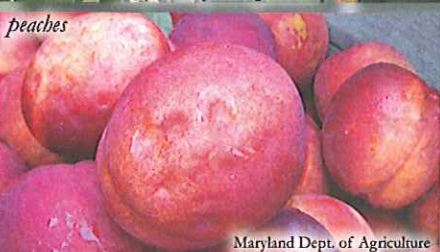
pears

Maryland Dept. of Agriculture



peppers

UM Extension



peaches

Maryland Dept. of Agriculture



tomato

Maryland Dept. of Agriculture

For further information please contact:

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 Plant Division
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