



Pest Alert: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Washington State University Extension • Washington State Department of Agriculture



Figure 1. BMSB eggs. (Photo P. Shearer – Oregon State University)



Figure 2. BMSB 3rd instar nymph. (Photo P. Shearer – Oregon State University)



Figure 3. BMSB adult on Asian pear. (Photo P. Shearer – Oregon State University)

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB), *Halyomorpha halys* (Stål), is a non-native insect that was first introduced to North America in late 1990s to Allentown Pennsylvania. Since its initial detection, the stink bug has been found throughout the North and Central Eastern US, and has been increasing its range towards the Midwest. It has also been found in California and was recorded in Portland OR in 2004. In the fall of 2010, several BMSB were easily collected in the Vancouver area of Washington State.

The BMSB has proven to be a significant pest in the eastern US. It is a very mobile insect that feeds on a wide range of plants, including significant agricultural crops such as tree fruit, grapes, berries, vegetables, corn, soybeans, and ornamental plants. Feed damage caused by stink bugs result in deformation and rotten blemishes on fruit and other plant parts. Thus far, it has shown high adaptability to different climates in the US and appears to resist commonly used pesticides.

In fall, BMSB adults aggregate in large masses often on the sides of homes and other buildings. The overwintering behavior adds to BMSB's pest status.

BMSB has a shield-shaped body, characteristic of all stink bugs. The adults are a half-inch long. The body is colored a mottled brown and grey and the margins of the shoulders (prothorax) are smooth without any toothed edges. The antennae and legs have dark and light bands. The abdomen also has alternating dark and light bands, which extend beyond the wings and are easily visible when viewing an adult bug. The underside is white, sometimes with dark markings. Immature BMSB nymphs are brightly colored red and black or white and black.

If you suspect you have Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs in a new region of Washington State, please collect the samples in a container and place it in a freezer until you can take them to your local WSU Extension office or local Master Gardener clinic (<http://ext.wsu.edu/locations>).

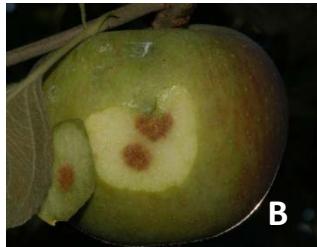


Figure 4 A & B. BMSB feeding damage on apple. Far left image shows feeding blemish while the right image shows damage to underlying tissue.
(Photo P. Shearer – OSU)



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Pest Alert: BMSB Identification

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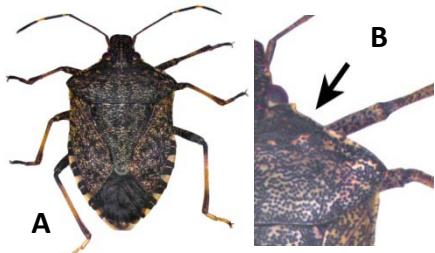


Figure 5. BMSB adult (A). Note the light and dark band on antennae, legs and alternation of bands on abdomen. (B) The edge of pronotum is smooth.

(Photo E. LaGasa – WSDA)



Figure 6. *Euschistus* sp. adult (A). Note the toothed edges on pronotum (B). (Photo E. LaGasa – WSDA)



Figure 7. *Holcostethus* sp. adult (A) without light and dark bands on the antennae, legs or abdomen. The edges on pronotum (B) are smooth. (Photo E. LaGasa – WSDA)

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Pest Alert:

BMSB Identification

Stinkbugs and related Hemipterans (true bugs) already occurring in Washington may be confused with BMSB. Similar appearing bugs include *Euschistus* sp. (Figure 6), *Holcostethis* sp. (Figure 7), and *Brochymena* sp. (Figure 8) stink bugs. BMSB can be distinguished from other stink bugs by its mottled coloration in combination with light and dark banding on the antennae, legs and abdomen. *Euschistus conspersus* and *Brochymena quadripustula* can look strikingly like BMSB, however, *Euschistus* sp. and *Brochymena* have a toothed edge on the pronotum (shoulders) (Figures 6B and 8B respectively). Other hibernating bugs commonly found in the home are western conifer seed bugs (*Leptoglossus occidentalis*, Figure 9), grass bugs (*Irbisia* Figure 10 and *Peritrichus* sp. Figure 11), and other newly introduced seed bugs *Rhyparochromis vulgaris* (Figure 12) and *Raglius alboacuminatus* (Figure 13).



Figure 8. *Brochymena* sp. adult (A). Note the light and dark band on antennae, legs and alternation of bands on abdomen. (B) The edge of pronotum is smooth. (Photo E. LaGasa – WSDA)

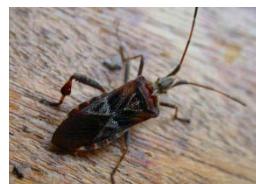


Figure 9.
Leptoglossus occidentalis adult.
(Photo T. Murray – WSU)



Figure 10. *Irbisia* sp. adult. (Photo K. Gray Collection)



Figure 11.
Peritrichus sp. adult.
(Photo E. LaGasa – WSDA)



Figure 12.
Rhyparochromis vulgaris adult. (Photo E. LaGasa – WSDA)



Figure 13. *Raglius alboacuminatus* adult. (Photo E. LaGasa – WSDA)