

Be on the Lookout For Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

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Fast Facts

- Brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB) are “true bugs” meaning they have needle-like mouthparts, they are shield-like in shape and is slightly larger than ½ an inch in length. They are brown and mottled with a gray underside.
- BMSB may damage garden plants such as tomatoes and peppers as well as tree fruits such as apples and peaches, they are also a well known nuisance pest that invades homes in the fall and winter.
- To prevent issues, check for cracks around windows, doors, pipes, and chimneys and seal openings with silicone or silicone-latex caulk. If stink bugs are found inside, simply vacuum living specimens up and dispose of them outside.

Life cycle

BMSB overwinters as an adult and will use homes as a winter hiding spot. They leave their overwintering site in April and May to mate. The female lays eggs from May until August. After hatching BMSB will develop through five nymphal stages before becoming an adult. Nymphs start out 1/8th inch and red and black and become larger, darker, and browner as they develop (reaching near 1/2 inch before adulthood). As they develop the stink bugs feed on a variety of plants such as apples, pears, peppers, tomatoes and sweetcorn. In September and October adults begin searching for overwintering sites to start the cycle anew next year.

Management of Brown marmorated stinkbugs

First and foremost you must seal up entry points into your home. If there are no easy routes inside, the insects can't become a nuisance. Check for cracks around windows, doors, pipes, and chimneys and seal any openings discovered with silicone or silicone-latex caulk. Screens on doors and windows should be assessed for holes and can be repaired or replaced. Exterior applications of insecticides can provide some protection but they must be applied at the correct time of year, please contact a pest control professional for help if you want an insecticide barrier around the home. If stink bugs are found inside, simply vacuum living specimens up and dispose of them outside. The use of indoor insecticide foggers is not advised, as they provide little control over this pest. If you are dealing with BMSB on garden plants please go to <http://www.stopbmsb.org/managing-bmsb/management-by-crop/> for help with control.



Figure 1 shows the top side of an adult brown marmorated stink bug. They are colored a mixture of brown, gold, and gray with small yellow triangle along the edge of the wing and white bands on the antennae **Figure 2** shows the top and bottom of BMSB and their size relative to a quarter. BMSB has a gray underside, differentiating it from other stink bug species Photos: Figure 1 Jim Kalisch, UNL Entomology, Figure 2 Jonathan Larson