

BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG IN HOMES

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The brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) is an invasive pest from China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan that was first introduced into eastern Pennsylvania sometime prior to 1998. The brown marmorated stink bug is known to be an agricultural pest in its native lands but has become a serious pest of fruits, vegetables and farm crops as well as a nuisance pest inside homes as it has spread across the United States.

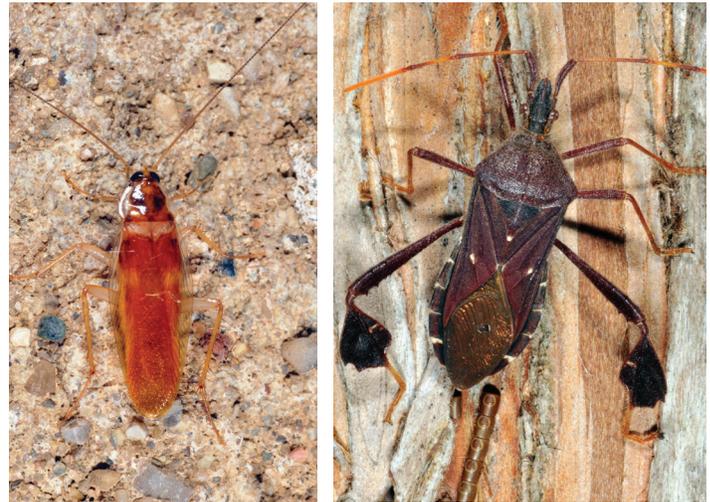


Brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) on apple.

The name 'stink bug' refers to an obnoxious and pungent odor emitted by the scent glands when this insect is disturbed. This odor is characteristic of the family but is especially strong in the brown marmorated stink bug.

Brown Marmorated stink bugs are often confused with other brown colored insects that occur inside homes. These include the brownbanded cockroach and the leaffooted bug.

Adult bugs measure about 17 mm in length, are almost as wide and are 'shield-shaped,' typical of the Pentatomidae family. Brown marmorated stink bugs have shades of mottled, brown on both the upper and lower body surfaces. These descriptions also fit other stink bugs in the U.S. including the native brown stink bug *Euschistus servus* but can be distinguished by the alternating dark and light bands on the last two antennal segments and exposed lateral margins of the



Brownbanded cockroach (left) and leaffooted bug (right)

abdomen, as well as a comparatively smooth shoulder when viewed under magnification.

Brown marmorated stink bug adults and nymphs feed on a wide variety of host plants, including fruits, ornamental plants, trees, weeds, soybeans and vegetables. They damage plants by inserting their long piercing-sucking mouth parts into the plant and withdrawing juices.

Damage symptoms include shrunken and distorted fruits, necrotic spotting, and discoloration including 'cat facing' that render the fruits unmarketable as fresh products.

Brown marmorated stink bugs also become a nuisance pest when they are attracted to and congregate on homes on warm fall days in search of protected, overwintering sites.

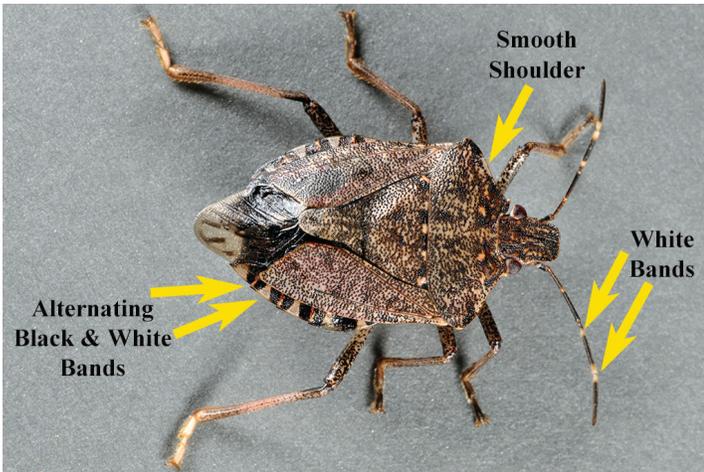
In Indiana, adults emerge during the spring (late April to mid-May), mate and deposit eggs from May through August. The eggs hatch into small black and red nymphs that develop through five molts. Adults begin to search for overwintering sites starting in September and continue through October, depending upon temperature.



Brown marmorated stink bug (left) compared to native brown stink bug (right)



Underside of brown marmorated stink bug depicting piercing-sucking mouthparts.



Diagnostic characters of the BMSB

Brown marmorated stink bugs seek cracks and crevices around windows, doors, siding, utility pipes, chimneys, and underneath fascia in which to squeeze themselves. This behavior results in brown marmorated stink bugs finding their way into wall voids and eventually into the inside of homes.

Although they do not feed or breed inside homes, they become a pest because of their presence and the odor they create, particularly as they are disturbed during warmer sunny periods throughout the winter and spring.

Mechanical exclusion is the best method to keep stink bugs from entering homes and buildings. Be certain that window and doors fit tightly and are closed when possible. Screens should be in proper shape and must also fit tightly if they are to keep BMSB out.

Exterior surface applications of insecticides may offer some protection if they are applied such that the chemicals are active when and where the stink bugs appear. Professional pest managers offer this as a service.

Inside homes, stink bugs can be removed manually and dropped into a container of soapy water. This not only kills them but also offers some relief from the disagreeable odor. Both live and dead stink bugs also can be removed from interior areas by using a broom and dustpan or with the aid of a vacuum cleaner. Either way, they should be killed rather than released outside so that they do not simply reappear back inside the home.



Brown marmorated stink bugs climbing on window sill