



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Questions and Answers for Idahoans

from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture

What is the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) (*Halyomorpha halys*)?

BMSB is an invasive insect native to China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan that was accidentally introduced to the eastern U.S. in the 1990s.

Why is BMSB a problem?

BMSB is both an *agricultural pest* that can damage fruit and vegetable crops and a *nuisance pest* that invades houses and other buildings in the fall and winter months.

What does BMSB feed on?

BMSB likes ornamental plants as well as fruits and vegetables including apples, peaches, tomatoes, soybeans, corn, grapes, peppers, beans and lilacs.

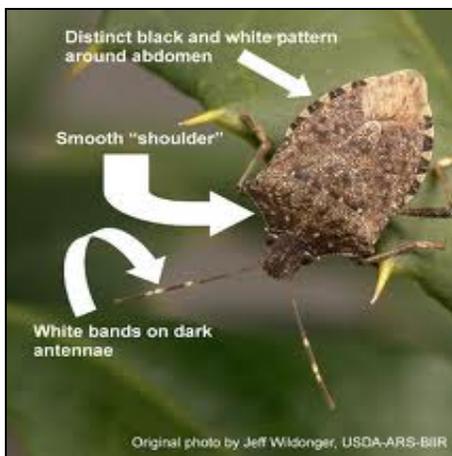


Has BMSB been found in Idaho?

At the beginning of 2012, BMSB had been found in 34 U.S. states, including Washington and Oregon, but not in Idaho. However, in May 2012, living BMSB adults were discovered in a home in Nampa. An alert homeowner who had recently moved from the East, where BMSB is endemic, found them as he unpacked. He called the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to report the problem. This incident is being carefully monitored by ISDA. Also, in October of 2014 the first BMSB in Ada County was confirmed from a garage in Boise.

What does BMSB look like?

BMSB has a shield-shaped body with **mottled brownish-grey coloration** (the word 'marmorated' means marbled). The adults are just over $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, and their antennae are marked with **distinctive white bands**. The insect's underside is white with gray or black markings, and its legs are brown with faint white banding. Unlike most native stink bugs, BMSB has **smooth "shoulders"** (see illustration). BMSBs have distinctive **black and white "skirting"** around their abdomens that protrudes from under the wings.



Underside



An immature BMSB



Life-sized silhouette

What should I do if I find BMSB in Idaho?

Take the specimen to your local Extension office or contact the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Pest Survey Program at (208) 332-8627.

To locate your local Idaho Cooperative Extension office visit:
<http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/find.asp>

How can I help control BMSB in Idaho?

At this time **BMSB is NOT established in Idaho** and we'd all like to keep it that way! The most important thing we all can do at this point is to be on the lookout for BMSB in the state. Use this handout to learn what the insect looks like and how to report it if you find it.

If BMSB were to establish in Idaho, there are some measures that could help manage the insect:

Gardeners can plant early ripening vegetables to avoid serious BMSB attacks. They can also protect their plants by hand-picking or knocking the insects into containers of soapy water, which will kill them. If BMSB populations become high, extra diligence is necessary because the insects will constantly migrate into the garden from surrounding landscapes and wooded areas.

Homeowners can prevent BMSB from coming in the home in the fall by sealing up cracks with caulk, using weather stripping around doors and windows, removing window air conditioners and closing all possible entry points.

Professional growers should consult their local Extension office to obtain the latest information on managing the insect in their areas.



Feeding damage on an apple



BMSB adult



Newly hatched BMSB (nymphs)

What are researchers doing about BMSB?

Studies are being conducted at the USDA Biological Control Research laboratory and Land Grant Universities in the US to understand BMSB biology and determine effective control options.

To learn more about research on BMSB, visit:

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/ar/archive/jul09/bug0709.htm>



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For more information on BMSB from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service visit:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/bmsb/index.shtml