



College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Sciences

Disaster Education Response Team



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

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Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is a invasive pest of fruits, nuts, vegetables and ornamentals. The bug was first detected in Allentown, PA in 1998 and has since spread across the United States. The bug was found in Tennessee during 2008 and has since become an agricultural and nuisance pest in parts of the state. The bug has been devastating to orchard and vegetable crops in the mid-Atlantic since 2012 and similar impacts may soon be seen in Tennessee as populations increase.

Identifying Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

- Adults are 0.5 inches long, brown in color on the top and grey-brown underneath with white bands on their antennae and the sides of the abdomen; nymphs are wingless and notable for the white banding on their legs and antennae.
- BMSB prefers to feed on fruits, buds and pods.
- BMSB will also feed on the sap of trees and other plants, piercing the stems and bark, causing a potential for disease transmission.
- BMSB chemical secretions can be irritating to the skin and eyes of sensitive individuals. Wear gloves when handling them.



Managing Brown Marmorated Stink Bug On Your Property

- In home gardens, hand remove bugs or use a pyrethroid product labeled for the target crop.
- For commercial production, consult extension management guides for monitoring and control of this pest.
- For home invasion issues, ensure all windows, doors, ducts and attic overhangs are sealed to prevent entry; pyrethroid pesticides labeled for structural use may aid in outdoor control; bugs can be vacuumed into a shop vac filled with soapy water and discarded.
- Contact your county [extension agent](#) for additional information.

Always follow pesticide label instructions.



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