

BIOSECURITY SA – Plant Health

Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: **1800 084 881** (available 24 hours)

Email PIRSA.biosecuritysa@sa.gov.au

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BIOSECURITY SA
PIRSA

BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG

Halyomorpha halys

WHAT IS IT?

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) *Halyomorpha halys* is an agricultural pest found in Asia, notably China, Japan, and Korea; it has aggressively invaded the US and could successfully establish in Australia.



Adult BMSB

Photo: courtesy of Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources stopbmsb.org.

BMSB is a voracious feeder and different life stages can severely damage fruit and vegetable crops. This insect feeds on more than 300 hosts, primarily fruit trees and woody ornamentals but also field crops. A broad range of crops can be attacked including: apple, bean, cotton, citrus, fig, grape, peach, pear, raspberry, soybean, tomato, corn and some ornamental plant species.

Adults generally feed on mature and immature fruit, while nymphs feed on leaves and stems as well as fruit. It severely disfigures fruit and renders it unmarketable, which results in control costs and production losses.

It is also a nuisance pest as adults enter vehicles, homes and factories in large numbers in autumn months, looking for places to shelter over winter.

BMSB is not a risk to human health but is a public nuisance. When disturbed or crushed it emits a characteristic, unpleasant and long-lasting odour.

HOW COULD IT GET HERE?

The adults naturally tend towards cracks/crevices to shelter from the environment in the winter months and may find their way into loaded containers for import into Australia. The insect has also spread through the transport of personal effects and housewares. It may also find its way into luggage and mail.

The Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has a number of measures in place to reduce the risk of exotic pests being introduced including requirements for importers and screening at the border. However there is no such thing as zero risk and it is possible the insect could hitch-hike its way into the country undetected.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Adult brown marmorated stink bugs are 12 to 17 millimetres long with a distinctive 'shield' shape. They are a mottled colour with a faint reddish tinge. While there are species of stink bugs in Australia that may look similar, adult brown marmorated stink bugs have distinctive black and white banding around the edge of the abdomen with white bands on the last two antennal segments.



Eggs and nymphs on the underside of a leaf
Photo courtesy David R. Lance, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

The underside of the body is white or pale tan, sometimes with grey or black markings. The legs are brown with faint white banding. Juveniles and nymphs are similar to adults except they are smaller and do not have fully developed wings.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Horticulturalists and home gardeners: Report any suspect finds to Biosecurity SA. If possible photograph and/or collect samples. Catch it and call us.

Travellers and those receiving mail from overseas: Be vigilant; check all incoming goods (including luggage) from affected regions.

REPORTING

If you suspect brown marmorated stink bug:

Call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

