



Brown marmorated stink bug

Overview

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is an invasive species that is causing economic damage to fruit, vegetable and agronomic crops in the Mid-Atlantic states. The insect now is expanding its range westward across the Corn Belt, causing issues with yield in corn and soybeans.

What you should know

- BMSB adults are less than one inch long and are various shades of brown. The term “marmorated” means marbled or mottled in appearance. As the name implies, BMSB emits a strong odor when disturbed.
- All stink bugs have piercing-sucking mouthparts called stylets, which they use to puncture plant parts and remove nutrients.
- In corn, BMSB will pierce developing kernels, reducing grain fill and yield.
- In soybeans, BMSB punctures developing pods and causes immature small seeds. Heavy feeding can induce green stem and leaf retention, which can greatly hamper harvesting ability.
- Unlike other stink bugs, BMSB favors overwintering in man-made structures. Adults emerge in late spring and begin to feed on a broad range of host plants. Females lay eggs in clusters on the underside of plant leaves from June through August. BMSB begins to aggregate on structures in September, becoming a nuisance to homeowners.

Action steps

1. **Identify BMSB:** Like other stink bugs, BMSB has a distinctive shield shape, but it has light-colored bands on the antennae and alternating light and dark areas on the abdomen.
2. **Recognize damage:** In early vegetative stage corn, look for a sequence of identical holes perpendicular to the leaf, ringed in yellow. Damage to the growing point can cause suckering or deformity.
3. **Control infestation:** Insecticides are currently the only option for heavy infestations. Because BMSB typically enters corn and soybean fields from other host plants, it may only be necessary to treat outside affected rows.



Brown marmorated stink bugs are expanding into the Corn Belt.



30-Second Summary

- The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) has arrived in the Corn Belt and may become a major concern for corn and soybean growers.
- BMSB punctures kernels and pods, sucking out nutrients and affecting plant development and yield.
- Best management practices include diligent scouting and treating heavy infestations with insecticide.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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1-888-647-3478