

## What is a Stink Bug?

The **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug** (BMSB) is an invasive insect from Asia that is new to North America.

Named for the offensive smelling liquid they emit from small glands located on their thorax, stink bugs were first identified in Allentown, PA in 1996. Their offensive smell can be quite noticeable if they are squashed or vacuumed up.

Stink bugs have since been found in several other states including **Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia**.

Stink bugs are 1/2" - 3/4" long (12-19mm) and appear in different shades of brown or grey.

They are frequently recognized by a triangular plate on their back and white stripes on their antenna.



## Why do I have them?

Stink bugs are typically known as an agricultural and structural pest because they cause massive damage to fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants, and overwinter in nearby structures.

They enter buildings through cracks around doors, windows, fans and lights in search of a place to survive the winter.



*Image courtesy of PSU*

## Are they dangerous?

BMSB's do not seem to be a danger to animal or human health. They do not reproduce inside structures, but become a nuisance pest when they enter structures in fall to survive the winter, and then exit in the spring.

## How Do I Get Rid of Stink Bugs?

BMSB's can't be completely eliminated from the outside of a structure. For that reason, the ideal way to resolve stink bug problems is to contact Rose Pest Solutions.

Our pest management professionals will evaluate the infestation and create a solution designed to protect your structure from these obnoxious pests.

## Can I Get Rid of Them Myself?

Frequently, the do-it-yourself methods will not resolve the pest problem.

Many insects, like the BMSB require the right insecticide, application equipment and knowledge to "time" the treatments for an effective, long term solution.

## How Do I Prevent Stink Bugs From Getting Into My Home?

- Seal cracks around windows, doors, electrical outlets, ceiling fans, light switches and areas where utilities and pipes enter the home.
- Install door sweeps on exterior doors and repair damaged screens so pests can't get inside.
- Repair damaged window screens. Also screen attic and crawlspace vents.
- Keep outdoor lighting to a minimum, or replace outdoor lights with yellow bulbs, which are less attractive to stink bugs.
- Trim tree branches and plants back from the house so pests can't travel from the tree to the house.
- Use a vacuum to eliminate both live and dead stink bugs indoors.
  - Seal the vacuum's contents in a plastic bag and dispose of it immediately to prevent the smell from permeating.
  - There's no sure-fire antidote for the smell, other than time.
- Remember, take a proactive approach to stink bugs before they become a problem.

