

# Brown marmorated stink bug

Be on the lookout for this recently found nuisance pest

Found any stink bugs?  
Report it to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline  
- 1800 084 881.

**Brown marmorated stink bug, an exotic plant pest, has recently been found in a trap in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs. We need your help to find it and minimise its impact and spread.**



Fig 1 – Adult showing distinct banding on antennae and abdomen (image courtesy of David R Lance USDA APHIS PPQ Bugwood.org)

## What is brown marmorated stink bug?

Brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) is an agricultural pest, as well as a nuisance pest that shelters inside homes and buildings, vehicles, machinery and sheds, producing a very unpleasant odour when it's disturbed or squashed – hence the term 'stink bug'. Originally from eastern Asia, this pest it is now widespread in North America and Europe.

## How did it enter Australia?

Brown marmorated stink bug most likely entered Australia by hitch-hiking in shipping containers, machinery, vehicles and other imported goods.

## How to identify brown marmorated stink bug

Adults are between 12-17mm long with a distinctive brown shield-shaped body (Fig.1). The shield colour varies but is generally mottled with a reddish tinge. Brown marmorated stink bug has distinctive banding on its antennae and the outer edge of its abdomen.



Fig 2 - Multiple life stages, including older instars (image courtesy of Gary Bernon, USDA APHIS, Bugwood.org)

First stage (just-hatched) juveniles have a dark head and shoulders and a red and orange abdomen that features dark stripes (Fig. 3). Older juveniles are darker and begin to display the banding pattern on the legs and antennae (Fig. 2). All nymphs are wingless and cannot fly. Eggs are white to light green colour and are laid in clusters of 25-30 on the underside of leaves (Fig. 3).



Fig 3. Brown marmorated stink bug eggs and first stage juveniles on underside of leaf (image courtesy of David R. Lance USDA APHIS PPQ. Bugwood.org)

# Brown marmorated stink bug – *Halyomorpha halys*

## Where should I look?

Look for brown marmorated stink bug around your home, work building, vehicles, machinery, shed and gardens – especially if you have fruit trees. This pest feeds on a wide range of fruit and vegetables, as well as ornamental trees and weeds.

## Why is it a problem?

Brown marmorated stink bug feeds on more than 300 types of fruit and ornamental trees and vegetable crops causing significant damage, including important agricultural crops to Australia and backyard gardens. The bug is not a risk to human health but it is regarded as a nuisance pest because it seeks sheltered places to overwinter such as inside homes, vehicles, machinery or sheds, often in large numbers. If it became established in Victoria, crop losses can result from production losses and reduced fruit quality. Further, control of BMSB may significantly increase the cost of production.

## What to do if you suspect brown marmorated stink bug

**If you find a brown marmorated sting bug, or other unusual pest or disease, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.**

Calls within Victoria will be answered by Agriculture Victoria staff. Alternatively, you can email photos of the suspected pest and damage, along with your contact details and the pest's location to plant.protection@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

Your report will be responded to by an experienced staff member, who will seek information about the detection and explain next steps, which may include a site visit and sampling to confirm the pest or disease.

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