



From Endemics to Exotics: Brown marmorated stink bug

Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is not currently found in Australia.

Crop monitoring and pest identification are the cornerstones of IPM and farm biosecurity. Australia has several similar-looking native stinkbugs that may be present in cotton crops.

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**



Photos from left to right: four nymphal stages of BMSB (second through fifth instar) and adult female.

Photo by W. Hershberger.

Why are BMSB a high priority exotic pest for Australian agriculture?

Once established, BMSB are very difficult to eradicate. Control methods overseas have predominately relied on broad-spectrum insecticides. This approach would negatively affect our IPM programs and increase the risk of secondary pest outbreaks.

BMSB are also a significant nuisance to homeowners and businesses as they often overwinter in garages, offices and roof cavities. While they do not bite or sting humans, BMSB emit an unpleasant odour when disturbed, and in large numbers can stain walls and floors with excrement.

What damage does BMSB cause?

Nymphs and adults use piercing-sucking mouthparts to feed, and the damage differs between host plants.

Scientific name: *Halyomorpha halys*

- Native to eastern Asia
- Spread to Europe, North America and has also been reported in Chile.
- >300 plant hosts (including cotton)
- Prefers fruiting structures
- Can spread rapidly via cargo containers and freight vehicles.

If you suspect BMSB, contact the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881 to help protect your farm and Australia's agricultural industry.

In the USA, BMSB are reported to prefer larger bolls than other cotton stinkbugs, therefore we would expect them to appear at a similar time or later in the season compared to endemic stinkbugs in Australia.

What measures are currently being taken to manage the risk of BMSB arriving in Australia?

Seasonal measures are in place to manage the risk of BMSB arriving in Australia. Certain goods manufactured or shipped from countries classified as high risk and transported as sea cargo from 1 September to 31 May are subject to BMSB interventions. For more information, visit www.agriculture.gov.au

This guide will assist you in identifying potential incursions of brown marmorated stink bug amongst endemic stinkbugs that can occur in Australian cotton.

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Protect Australian agriculture and report suspected brown marmorated stink bugs













<p>BMSB <i>Halyomorpha halys</i> Exotic pest</p> <p>Eggs</p>  <p>Cluster of 25 – 30 light green to white eggs on the underside of leaves.</p> <p>Nymphs Photos of fourth instar nymphs</p>  <p>2–12mm</p> <p>Yellow reddish abdomen with dark stripes around the perimeter and down the centre.</p> <p>Adults</p>  <p>12–17mm</p> <p>Variable body colour: generally mottled with faint red tinge. Black and white banding around the outer edge of the abdomen.</p>	<p>Brown shield bug <i>Dictyotus caenosus</i> Usually minor pest</p>  <p>Eggs in small twin row rafts or irregular rafts.</p>  <p>2–5mm</p> <p>Orange or pale brown abdomen with black markings.</p>	<p>Spined predatory shield bug <i>Oechalia schellenbergii</i> Predatory bug</p>  <p>Cluster of black eggs with long perimeter spines.</p>  <p>2–8mm</p> <p>Black nymphs have a distinctive orange 'ring of fire'.</p>	<p>Glossy shield bug <i>Cermatulus nasalis</i> Predatory bug</p>  <p>Cluster of black eggs with short perimeter spines.</p>  <p>2–9mm</p> <p>Black nymphs have four orange spots on the abdomen.</p>
<p>Scale: 20 mm</p>			
<p>Adult BMSB have distinctive white bands on the last two antennal segments</p>  <p>5–8mm</p> <p>Smaller than BMSB. Not as reddish in colour with minimal mottling.</p>		<p>Adult endemic stinkbugs have no distinctive white bands on the antennae</p>  <p>8–12mm</p> <p>Spined shoulders</p>  <p>10–12mm</p> <p>Glossy body. No mottling.</p>	

Photo acknowledgements: brown marmorated stink bugs: W. Hershberger; adult endemic stinkbugs: N. Tees, Australian Museum; egg and nymph endemic stinkbugs: J. Wessels, formerly DAF

Collect a sample and phone the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.