

Fighting against the stink bug and what may help keep these awful little pests out of your home.

1. House color - Yellow houses are stink bug magnets. Lighter colors seem to attract the stink bugs more. Brown or darker colored homes show little to no signs of stink bugs.

2. Caulking and bug-proofing the outside of your house - Caulk the cracks, seams and gaps in your house that allow stink bugs to enter. Stink bugs can squeeze through extremely narrow openings. Caulk also shrinks and cracks, so maintenance is required. Make sure your attic vents are screened.

3. Bug-proofing the inside of your house-Your walls and ceilings are the second line of defense to keep stink bugs from entering your living area. Old style open recessed lighting and open-to-the attic bathroom fans are portals for stink bugs to enter from the ceiling. Screening the openings in the attic will help cut down on places of entry. Weather stripping windows and doors will also help keep out the bugs.

4. Check your window screens- Windows are a prime target for stink bugs. Makes sure to check that the screens fit the windows properly. Stink bugs can often squeeze between the frame of the window and the screen.

5. Calling a pest management company to treat your house - Stink bugs are pretty resilient to DIY type insecticide sprays. Before you spend several days and dollars and still have them invading your home, calling an expert will be less costly and more effective.



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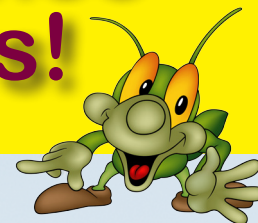
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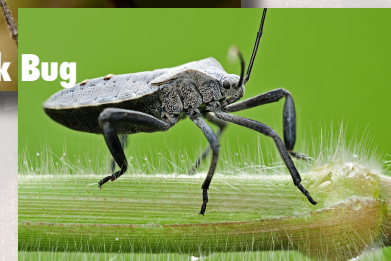


Fact Sheet

**There's a
stench in
town . . .**



The Stink Bug



**Crawling into area
homes near you.**

**Over windowsills, through door
crevices and between attic vents.**

Invasion of the Stink Bugs!



Shaped like shields and armed with an odor, dime - size bugs are crawling into homes in such numbers that homeowners talk about drowning them in jars of soapy

water, suffocating them in plastic bags or even burning them with propane torches. In the process, some people are unwittingly creating another problem: When squashed or irritated, the bugs release a distinctive smell.

The bug populations are on the rise. There is a huge population shift with the change in temperatures. During the colder months, the orchards, cornfields and gardens will empty out and all will seek refuge inside for a warmer climate. Homes, office buildings, warehouses and hotels are all at risk for invasion.

Stink bugs are harmless to people and their possessions. They don't bite or sting. They're not known to transmit disease.

Their numbers have grown over the years and there is no simple way to kill a large number of the bugs at once. There is no natural predators in the United States. The insects easily travel - hitching rides on vehicles, construction material and are very adaptable to winter in doors where there is a heat source. As a result of the number of places for them to winter, they have flourished, spreading to 29 states since they arrived in Pennsylvania, likely stowaways in shipping containers from Asia. They are native to Japan, Korea and China, where they are known as "stinky big sisters."

Stink bugs are a mere nuisance for people. Because of recent reported crop destruction, they are causing some farmers real distress.

Maryland's Agriculture Department has warned that the bug is emerging as a devastating pest to orchard owners and potentially to soybean growers. They have had their most extensive brown marmorated stink bug damage to both tree fruit and vegetables ever reported in the U.S. - Jerry Brust, a University of Maryland pest expert reported.



For the first time, because of the rise in number, damage is on the increase to fruits and vegetables, ornamental shrubs and trees.

Included in reported loss, corn, grapes, tomatoes, soybeans, berry plants, pears, peaches

and apples.



Up to 20% of a 100 acre orchard was lost in the Thurmond, MD area. The owner of Catoctin Mountain Orchard reported "The bugs sucked out juices, leaving pockmarks that make fruit and vegetables unmarketable."

Mr. Masser (owner of a 325 acre farm near the Pennsylvania border) was quoted saying "They're taking money out of your pockets, just like a thief", as he was flicking stink bugs off his shirt and ball cap. "We need to stop them. Their appetite has left dry boreholes in everything". Other farmers are reporting far worse damage.



- especially the people who unwittingly step on them.

Damage to fruit and vegetable crops from stink bugs reported in the Middle Atlantic states has reached critical levels, according to a government report. That is in addition to the headaches the bugs are giving homeowners who cannot keep them out of their living rooms

When the stink bugs are crushed or become irritated, they emit a pungent odor that is sometimes described as skunk like or sweaty feet.

Effecting not only fruits and vegetables, worry is now creeping it's way in to dairy farms. Farmers are worried that cows feeding on chopped-up field corn full of dead stink bugs might develop a bad smell in their milk.

An Increase in the stink bug population has been noticed in the last few years, reporting swarms that are out of control in some areas. Researchers have reported that the bugs reproduce at a faster rate this past year, but they are unsure why. Reports show they have spread as far as Oregon.

The brown marmorated stink bug - different from the green stink bugs that are kept in check here by natural predators - have also been found in 15



states, and specimens in 14 other states, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.



The bug travels well, especially as it seeks warm homes before the onset of cold weather. Have you seen them around or in your house? The adults are moving and looking for places to spend the winter.

We, as homeowners need to do our part to help control the brown marmorated stink bug. To keep the insect out of the house, sealing cracks, particularly around windows, door frames and foundations will help. This is great for energy savings as well. Checking screens for integrity is also a good idea. Air conditioners are a common route for the insect to enter a home and consideration should be given to removing the units at the end of the summer or using seal tight covers.

