

FROM ENDEMIC TO EXOTICS:

BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG

Biosecurity

FACT SHEET FEBRUARY 2025

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 native stinkbugs that look similar to BMSB, such as brown shield bugs, spined predatory shield bugs, and glossy shield bugs, that may be present in cotton crops. Additionally, the egg rafts and newly hatched nymphs of green vegetable bugs also look similar to BMSB.

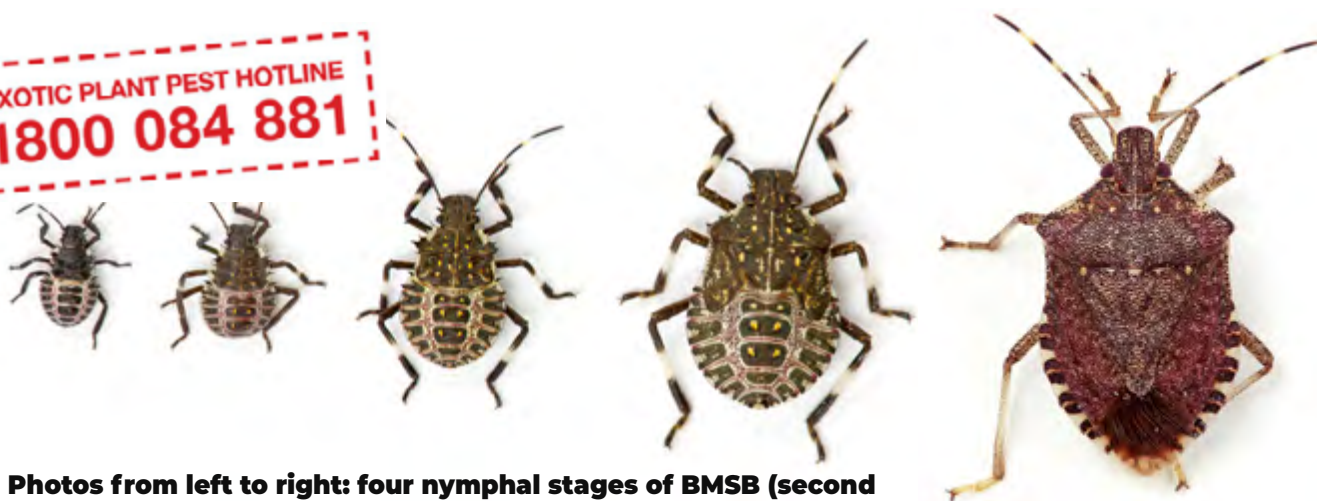
This guide will assist you in identifying potential incursions of brown marmorated stink bug amongst endemic shield bugs that occur in Australian cotton crops.

Scientific name: *Halyomorpha halys*

- » Native to eastern Asia
- » Spread to Europe, North America and South America (Chile).
- » >300 reported 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 or your state Department of Primary Industries to help protect your farm and Australia's agricultural industry.

**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.



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PROTECT AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE AND REPORT SUSPECTED BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUGS

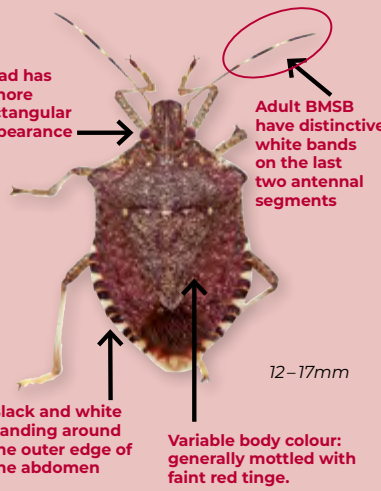
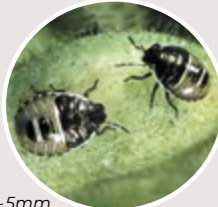
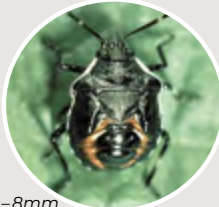
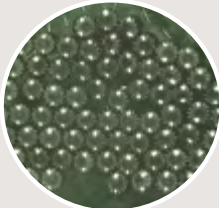
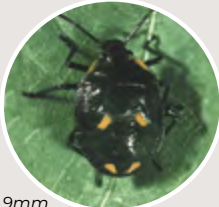
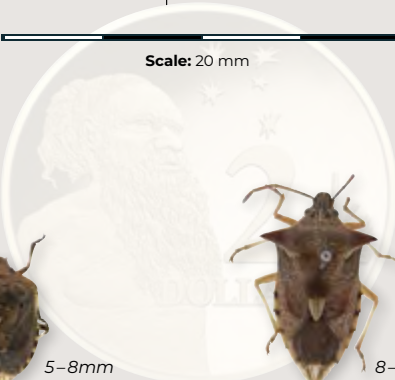
BMSB <i>Halyomorpha halys</i> Exotic pest Eggs  Cluster of 25 – 30 light green to white eggs on the underside of leaves. Nymphs Photos of fourth instar nymphs  2–12mm Yellow reddish abdomen with dark stripes around the perimeter and down the centre. Adults  12–17mm	Brown shield bug <i>Dictyotus caenosus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

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

Additional visual resources to assist with identifying endemic shield bugs is available on The Beatsheet website. Collect a sample and phone the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881



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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.

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



**Brown marmorated
stink bug**



**Green vegetable bug
nymphs**

Did you know Green Vegetable Bug nymphs hatching from their eggs also look like BMSB?

manufactured or shipped from countries classified as high risk and transported as sea cargo from 1 September to 30 April (inclusive) are subject to BMSB interventions. For more information, visit www.agriculture.gov.au

Acknowledgements to Queensland Department of Primary Industries, CSIRO, University of Queensland, Wine Australia and Horticulture Innovation Australia for their contributions.

For further information:

Visit www.cottoninfo.com.au



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