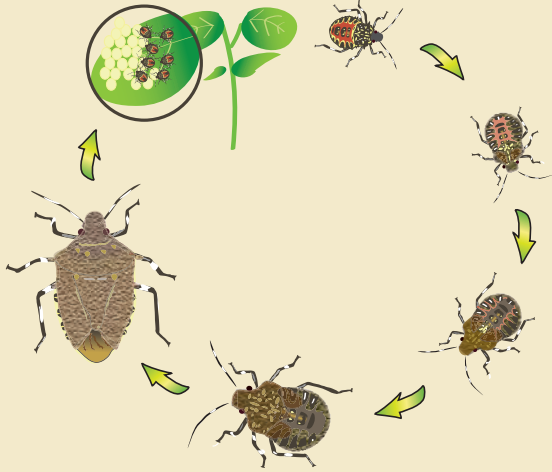


## Life cycle of the stink bug



Stink bugs have a simple life cycle with three stages: egg, nymph, and adult. Nymphs resemble adults but are smaller and have stubby, nonfunctional wing pads. Nymphs are brightly colored with patches of black, green, yellow, or red.

It takes weeks for stink bugs to develop from egg to adult. Most stink bugs overwinter as adults, hibernating under leaf litter or other protected locations.

Brown marmorated stink bug nymphs are  $\frac{1}{10}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long. Young nymphs are orange or red with black markings, older nymphs are gray and black. Nymphs have black legs and antennae with white bands.

Stink bugs of Iowa

## Reporting brown marmorated stink bug

Stink bugs can be identified at the ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic. Send closeup, clear, digital images to [insects@iastate.edu](mailto:insects@iastate.edu), or mail carefully packaged specimens to:

ISU Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinic  
327 Bessey Hall  
Ames, IA 50011

For a current map of BMSB, please see [www.ncipmpipe.org](http://www.ncipmpipe.org).

## Acknowledgments

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### Photographs

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**Integrated Pest Management**

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# Stink bugs of the Midwest

A reference for distinguishing the brown marmorated stink bug from similar-looking insects

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## Stink bugs

Stink bugs are common and well-known insects found in Iowa lawns, landscapes, and field crops. Stink bugs are recognized for the foul smell they produce to deter predators. Many smelly insects are incorrectly nicknamed "stink bugs." True stink bugs are approximately one-half inch in length and roughly shield-shaped.

### Brown stink bug

- ½ inch long
- Shield-shaped body
- Grayish-yellow with dark punctures on the back
- Underside is greenish
- 'Shoulders' rounded to slightly pointed



### Spined soldier bug

- About ½ inch long
- Shield-shaped body
- Yellowish to pale brown color
- 'Shoulders' are sharply pointed



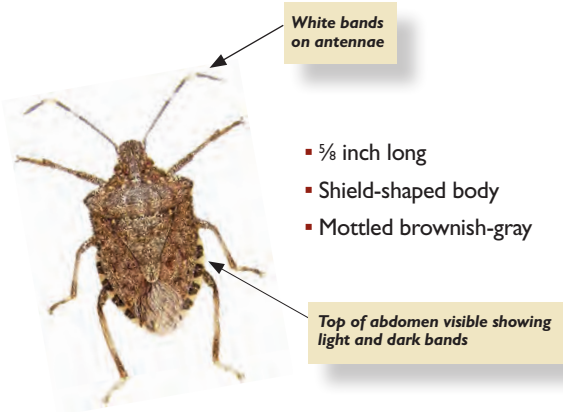
### Green stink bug

- ½ to ¾ inch long
- Shield-shaped body
- Bright green
- Elongate oval shape
- Antennae with dark bands



## Brown marmorated stink bug

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is a recently introduced, invasive plant feeder. This guide is intended to help you distinguish native stink bugs and similar-looking insects from the BMSB.



White bands on antennae

- 5/8 inch long
- Shield-shaped body
- Mottled brownish-gray

Top of abdomen visible showing light and dark bands

- BMSB can be found in fields, orchards, and gardens
- BMSB overwinter in structures

Underside is pale



## Similar-looking insects

Several other insects commonly encountered in the Midwest are similar to stink bugs and may be easily confused.



### Squash bug

- 1 inch long
- Elongate oval body and pointed head
- Gray-black or brown
- Rarely found indoors



### Western conifer seed bug

- Accidental household invader in the fall
- 1 inch long
- Elongate body
- Bronze and brown in color



### Boxelder bug

- Accidental household invader in the fall
- ½ inch long
- Elongate body
- Black with red or orange markings