



January
2022

Hitchhiker pests

Brown marmorated stink bugs



Hitchhiker pests can arrive in Australia on cargo and containers and may be more common at particular times of the year. The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is one such pest which originates from Asia and has spread to North America, Europe, Oceania and South America.

The risk to Australia

The exotic brown marmorated stink bug is not found in Australia and is a pest of considerable biosecurity concern to Australia's agricultural industries. Juveniles and adults feed on, and can severely damage, fruit and vegetable crops, with an appetite for over 300 agricultural and ornamental species. It is also a nuisance pest as adults can enter vehicles, homes and factories in large numbers in autumn months, looking for places to shelter over winter.

How to identify BMSB

Adult BMSB are 12 to 17 millimetres long and mottled with a faint reddish tinge. While there are species of stink bugs in Australia that look similar, adult BMSB have distinctive black and white banding around the edge of the abdomen with white bands on the last two antennal segments.

Where to look for BMSB

BMSB can be found in large numbers seeking shelter from cold weather in crevices or protected areas of shipping containers, vehicles, boats, caravans, machinery and personal stored items.

When to look for them

Brown marmorated stink bugs are more frequently found on goods arriving in Australia between September and April, coinciding with late autumn and winter in the northern hemisphere.



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What to do if you find suspect BMSB

SEE. SECURE. REPORT.

If you see BMSB or other biosecurity risks with imported goods or vessels, report it immediately to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on **1800 798 636** or at awe.gov.au/report. Take action to contain the pest:

- Close the container or vessel's doors or create barriers.
- Isolate the affected cargo in an area away from other goods. Don't move the goods outside if they're in a warehouse.
- Don't use a knockdown spray as this may cause the pest to disperse.

If you spot BMSB in your backyard or on any type of crop, contact your local department of agriculture by phoning the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on **1800 084 881**.

Managing BMSB at the border

Each year the department applies seasonal measures to manage the risk of BMSB arriving in Australia. The measures apply to goods manufactured and shipped from BMSB target risk countries, shipped between 1 September and 30 April. The measures also apply to vessels that berth at, load or tranship from target risk countries within the same period.



awe.gov.au/priority-plant-pests

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