

Stink Bugs

Stink bugs are a menace in the garden and maddening in the home. They damage fruit, vegetables, and farm crops - but when they invade the indoors in the colder weather, they really raise a stink. With no effective natural enemies, stink bugs have been discovered in 41 states and 2 Canadian provinces, posing severe agricultural problems in six states and nuisance problems in fifteen others.

The stink bug has been called a “terrorist bug;” its spread deemed a “national crisis.” It has received major media attention since September 2010 when its populations exploded in the U.S.

Life cycle:

- * April and May: Adult stink bugs emerge and start moving outside to mate and lay eggs on leaves of plants and trees
- * May through August: Flightless, juvenile stink bugs, called nymphs, hatch and start feeding on vegetables and fruit
- * July through September: Nymphs become adult stink bugs, which can fly, and continue feeding in gardens, on field crops, orchards, and fruit trees.
- * September and October: As plants are harvested and food sources dry up, stink bugs begin seeking shelter to over-winter. Homes are a prime target.
- * October to April: Stink bugs over-winter in sheltered locations, typically in attics. They become a nuisance around the house in early spring.



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