
New Hampshire
*Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food*

Granite State Home & Garden
Immediate Release

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Yet Another Invasive

By

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It wasn't all that long ago that finding a new insect species, particularly one that was injurious or invasive, was rather rare. Now it seems that almost every year we are confronted with problems arising from one or more newly discovered insect pest.

It wouldn't be quite so bad if those new insect discoveries were beneficial in some way, perhaps reducing mosquito or black fly populations. Better yet, how about uncovering an insect capable of eliminating ticks all together or finding an insect that smells like freshly picked lilacs. But no, instead we're stuck with the multi-colored Asian Ladybeetle, whose numbers reach into the millions and that are found congregating in and outside of our homes. Or we have to deal with the Western Conifer Seed Bug, the pesky plant bug with flattened back legs that somehow also enter our homes every fall. Asian Longhorned Beetles and Emerald Ash Borers haven't been found in New Hampshire yet, but are looming threats.

Now we need to be on the lookout for the newest arrival, the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB). The BMSB was first discovered in North America in Pennsylvania in 2001. It was later found in Maine in 2006 and in Massachusetts in 2007. It stands to reason that it's probably already here in New Hampshire, but we just haven't found or reported it yet. The BMSB has a wide varied host list of fruits, vegetables and nursery plants. Its feeding habits scar and distort plants and pit and discolor fruits and vegetables. And oh yes, I forgot to mention that it too, is another pest of homes, where it seeks to hibernate for the winter.

A Pennsylvania resident sums it up like this, "They are in curtains in the bedroom, our clothing, the windows, our shoes, and they drive me crazy." Forget about smelling like lilacs and instead substitute a rather pungent odor emitted when handling them. Like many other invasives they have very few redeeming qualities. The shield shaped adults will soon begin emerging from over-wintering sites. BMSB have 5 nymphal, immature stages, all with bright red eyes. Throughout the season check for the presence of these insects or signs of their damage on fruit trees, particularly apples, peaches, pears and cucurbits and tomatoes.

Please send us digital photos or suspected specimens, or for more information on this and other invasive pests contact our office at NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301 or (603) 271-2561 or tdurkis@agr.state.nh.us.

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