

**Patricia D. Hastings**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, October 01, 2002 3:32 PM  
**Subject:** Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is seeking assistance in identifying the range of a yellow-brown stink bug called the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) which recently was discovered for the first time in northwestern New Jersey. According to the department, by reporting any sightings of this stink bug, homeowners and others can play an important role in efforts to monitor this new insect and determine its range in New Jersey.

The insect was found last month in Phillipsburg, Warren County, in a black light trap used to monitor levels of other insects by the Rutgers Vegetable IPM program. Native to China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, this stink bug first was discovered in this country in Pennsylvania in 1998. Its range has spread to four counties in that state. In its native range, it is an agricultural pest that attacks fruits and soybean. Very little is known about the insect's host plants in this country or whether it will become an agricultural pest. In Pennsylvania, it has been found on ornamental plants and some varieties of trees.

The brown marmorated stink bug is most visible in the fall, when they are attracted to the outside of houses and other buildings that provide a warm place to overwinter. Clusters of these stink bugs can be as large as 100 to 200 insects. The insects can burrow under siding to gain access to the inside of homes and become a nuisance. They are not harmful to humans and do not reproduce inside homes.

Named for the odor given off when crushed, these stink bugs are brown, approximately one-half inch long, with the typical "shield" shape of other stinkbugs (almost as wide as they are long). They are distinguishable from other stink bugs by lighter bands on their antennae.

If any samples come into your office please let the Department of Agriculture know. Reports should contain the address, daytime phone number, description of the insect and physical location of infestation. They should be sent to Tom Denholm at the department. His email address is [tom.denholm@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:tom.denholm@ag.state.nj.us). If possible, contain the specimen in either a small sealed dry jar, or a bottle filled with household rubbing alcohol in case they want to see it.

You can find more information at [www.news.cornell.edu/Chronicles/11.1.01/stinkbugs.html](http://www.news.cornell.edu/Chronicles/11.1.01/stinkbugs.html) or [www.ento.psu.edu/bugalerts.htm](http://www.ento.psu.edu/bugalerts.htm).

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