

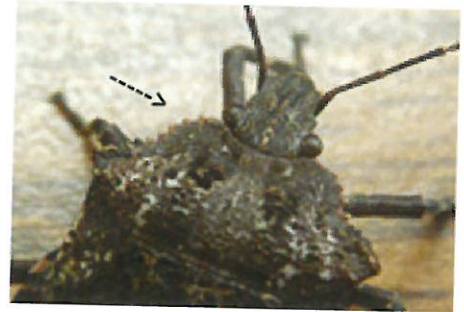
Bugs & Blights

By Sharon J. Collman | WSU Snohomish Extension

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (affectionately BMSB) <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS079E/FS079E.pdf> provides good diagnostic photos for common fall-home invasion insects. Note the “shoulders” of the brown marmorated stink bug are smooth. Now is an especially good time to be on the alert for these sucking insects. Residents will be concerned about stink bugs seeking shelter in homes. We are trying to identify Washington stinkbugs and delineate the distribution of BMSB. They are being found in an increasing number of counties in Washington. Snohomish, Yakima, Walla Walla, King, and more.

Contact Mike Bush, WSU Yakima Extension who is surveying stink bugs in Washington. Send photos or specimens in crush-proof containers. Details at <http://ext100.wsu.edu/yakima/invasive-pests/>. (Photo courtesy of Todd Murray.)

Native Stink Bugs Species are also common across the State. Note the little teeth on the “shoulders” (see arrow). Several brown stinkbugs may be mistaken for BMSB. Native species do not have the white bands on the antennae. Some stink bugs are predators so it is important to identify it correctly. See the BMSB fact sheet for photos of other home-invading true bugs. (Photo courtesy of Sharon J. Collman.)



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Boxelder Bugs move into homes in fall especially in Eastern Washington where boxelder (*Acer negundo*) are grown. Sometimes brighter red nymphs without wings will be among the invaders. They are harmless to people in that they don't bite or carry germs, but they are a total nuisance. They can be a pest of the fruit of tree fruits such as apples and cherries. <http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=200>; <http://entomology.wsu.edu/outreach/bug-info/box-elder/>. (Photo courtesy of WSU.)



Grass Weevils are about the size of a peppercorn and more gray in color, though photos show them brown. They enter houses and outbuildings by the handfulls in fall. A vacuum is especially useful for this task and is the most practical control as it removes the bodies. Then take the bag outside. <http://content.libraries.wsu.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ext/id/22825>. (Photo courtesy of Daniel J. Bennett.)



Banded Woolly Bear Caterpillars, *Pyrrharctia* (synonym *Isia*) *isabella*, are a commonly found in the fall, and very early spring. They feed on dandelions, plantain, and other forbs. As cold comes on they find protective places to overwinter. A "bug" antifreeze allows them to freeze solid (supercooling) during extreme cold. In spring they feed briefly, then pupate. The short-lived moth is rusty brown with black spots. <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Pyrrharctia-isabella>. (Photo courtesy of Sharon J. Collman.)

