

# Bugs & Blights

## Stink Bugs: Wanted And Unwanted

By Sharon J. Collman | WSU Snohomish Extension

Stink bugs adults are sucking insects with incomplete metamorphosis. Unlike butterflies that have a complete change in form from caterpillar to the adult, insects with incomplete metamorphosis or transformation always look like the adults without wings. The wing "buds" become more visible with each molt. The last molt produces the adult with fully formed wings. The immatures or nymphs and adults usually feed together on seeds, fruits, stems, and are predators of other insects. The final molt produces the winged adult. Usually stink bugs overwinter as adults in protected places such as homes where it is warm and dry during winter months.

### Wanted Dead Or Alive: Stink Bugs Still At Large In Washington State

In 1988, a statewide survey revealed 23 species of stink bugs in Washington. In 2014, this number was increased to 47 species, including the invasive and dreaded Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) that was found in a handful of counties. There are likely to be many more stink bugs in Washington State. Some stink bugs winter over in homes and outbuildings so it is a good time to enlist public and nurseries' help in collecting specimens. The specimens will help determine the county distribution of BMSB and other stink bugs, as well as give us a better understanding of crop damaging species.

If you capture any bug that resembles a stink bug, WSU Extension desperately needs the specimen mailed to us along with information that provides us with where (the town or county or GPS location captured), when (date), and the host plant they were found on.

### Western Conifer Seed Bug (*Leptoglossis occidentalis*)

The Western Conifer Seed Bug is a member of the leaf-footed bug family (Coreidae). They may be seen on house walls or inside homes where they entered through cracks. This true bug is fairly big and startling but otherwise harmless. They do have an odd smell to ward off predators so rather than squash them, pick them up in a tissue and toss them back outside, or put them into a container and freeze or use the vacuum.

Send samples, in a crush-proof container, to Mike Bush, WSU Yakima County Extension, 2403 S 18th St, Ste 100, Union Gap, WA 98903. Digital images may be sent to [bushm@wsu.edu](mailto:bushm@wsu.edu).

12- B&B Magazine & Northwest Landscape Professional, October/November 2014



STINK BUG EGGS.



STINK BUG NYMPH (NOTE WINGS ARE NOT FULLY FORMED) FEEDING ON WILLOW FLEA BEETLE LARVA.



ADULT STINKBUG COMMONLY FOUND ON ALDER CATKINS.



LEAF-FOOTED BUG. NOTE EXPANDED AREA ON HIND LEG AND ARROW POINTING TO THE PROBOSCIS.

