

Bugs & Blights

Target the pest, Protect the rest.

by Sharon J. Collman | WSU Snohomish Extension

Speaking of new introductions to the nursery....I'd like to introduce you to a few insects that may come your way. As knowledgeable horticulturists, you are in the best position to identify new insects or diseases, slugs or snails that are odd, different, or that you haven't seen before. You are the "eyes in the field". About 1/3 of all the new pests that have been identified have been submitted to Extension or to WSDA. So your trained eyes should be watching for new pests as you inspect or maintain landscapes or incoming nursery stock. Please report suspects to your county Extension office or to WSDA or to me at collmans@wsu.edu



European chafer, *Rhizotrogus majalis*. A lawn pest to distinguish from European crane fly. Raccoons will turn lawn into a rototilled nightmare as they search for grubs. The adults are brown. They are already in British Columbia. They can fly. They can cross borders without border checks.

For more information: <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS078E/FS078E.pdf>

Photo by David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org



Brown marmorated stink bug

(BMSB), or *Halyomorpha halys* and has now been found in Clark, Skamania, Thurston, Yakima, and other counties. You are probably sick of hearing about this insect. Besides being a major crop and native berry pest, the huge numbers invading homes will freak out homeowners when it moves into houses in winter. You'll be getting questions. Todd Murray has written an excellent pest alert to help you distinguish BMSB from our dark native stink bugs. You can always submit clear photos specimens to me.

For more information: <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS079E/FS079E.pdf>

Photo by David R. Lance, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Japanese Beetle is a longstanding threat which is intercepted from time to time. The soil dwelling grub looks much like the grub of the European chafer. Adults are a lovely green and red. The publication below is quite thorough and more relevant to the western states. However, DO NOT recommend the chemical pesticide listed as they may not be registered or legal in Washington or other states.

For more information: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05601.html>

Photo by: David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org



Western conifer seed bug.

Leptoglossus occidentalis is a true bug in the family of leaf-footed bugs. It is the insect most often submitted as a stink bug. Yes, it does stink, though it's a kind of interesting smell. Harmless to people and home, it is looking simply looking for a winter site (easier than flying to Arizona for winter). They are entering houses now and finding their way into boxes or other protected outdoor items.

For more information: <http://foreststewardshipnotes.wordpress.com/2012/08/08/stink-friends-not-stink-bugs/> Photo: SJCcollman, WSU - Snohomish Extension