



PRESS RELEASE  
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## New Pest Making a “Stink” in New Jersey

Rutgers Cooperative Extension researchers have identified the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) from samples recently submitted by a homeowner in Somerset County.

This exotic pest is native to Asia and is an important agricultural pest in Japan where it attacks soybeans and various tree crops. First identified in New Jersey in 1999 (Milford), other recoveries occurred in 2002 and 2003 (Phillipsburg, Hillsborough and Morris County) prior to this find in Somerset. First discovered in the United States in 1996, *H. halys* has been observed feeding on a wide variety of ornamentals, tree fruit and vegetables. It is uncertain at this time if this stink bug will become a widespread pest in the eastern US.

Adults of this stink bug are approximately 17mm long, generally brown in color with characteristic white and dark banded antennal segments. Their body resembles the shape of a shield or an inverted triangle.

Adults of this pest exhibit behavior similar to Asian lady bird beetles and boxelder bugs and can congregate on houses in late fall and eventually move indoors. Once inside they can become a nuisance and emit an offensive odor if crushed (hence the name ‘stink bug’). Chemical control recommendations are not currently available. Caulking windows and doors, etc. in areas where the insect congregates on the outside of the house or structure should help prevent them from entering.

To determine the risk this new pest poses to Somerset County and NJ’s agricultural and ornamental industries, local populations must be identified. Once its distribution is known, environmental factors combined with ongoing laboratory studies will be used to determine its capacity to spread and adversely affect nursery and crop production.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the NJ Department of Agriculture have combined efforts regarding survey and research needs. The website, [www.rce.rutgers.edu/stinkbug](http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/stinkbug), has been set up with more detailed information on this exotic pest. Fact sheets, digital images, email links, and online reporting of new or suspected recoveries are available. Leading this effort are Dr. George Hamilton (Extension Specialist in Pest Management) and Dr. Peter Shearer (Extension Specialist in Tree Fruit Entomology), with funding from the Northeast IPM Center.

If you find or suspect this pest in or around your home or property, please contact your local Rutgers Cooperative Extension office (in Somerset County 908-526-6293) or use the website described previously. A complete list of county offices is available online at [www.rce.rutgers.edu](http://www.rce.rutgers.edu) or listed in the blue pages of your phone book.

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