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STINK BUG FACT SHEET

This fact sheet is intended for the Northeastern U.S and is not intended for other parts of the country or world.

KEY POINTS

- Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs are not native to the U.S. and have emerged as a major pest in recent years.
- Stink Bugs enter structures to avoid cooler temperatures using the voids of the home to stay warm until outdoor temperatures are suitable and their natural food is once again available (September – June)
- They don't reproduce indoors, but rather are using the building as a resting place to survive the winter months.
- Stink bugs are not harmful but can be a nuisance and become annoying when they enter structures.
- Control is best accomplished by sealing up potential entry points and making chemical applications to the exterior of the structure between September & October when they are entering the building.

WHERE DO STINK BUGS COME FROM?

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug was unintentionally introduced into the United States from Asia sometime between 1996 and 1999 in Allentown PA. These insects are pests of agriculture and landscapes, feeding on a wide variety fruits and seeds and berries produced by trees and ornamental plants. In recent years they have become a major pest of homes & office buildings entering buildings in the fall and appear indoors until they exit the following summer. Their name comes from the odor emitted from scent glands when disturbed or crushed.

WHY ARE THEY GETTING INSIDE THE STRUCTURE?

Stink bugs enter structure to survive the cold winter months, seeking the warmth found within the insulated walls of the building. They enter through tiny gaps around windows, doors, vents, chimneys or the eaves of the structure. During the fall months, stink bugs can be very active in the home as they try to settle down for the winter. Throughout the cold winter months as the sun or heating system warms walls, stink bugs within the walls, may become active and appear inside. Although the sight of these insects may be upsetting they are harmless and will not feed or reproduce inside the structure. Once indoors, their tendency to get into and under things can make them especially infuriating.

HOW LONG CAN I EXPECT TO SEE THEM INDOORS?

Stink bugs are active in structures much longer than other over-wintering pests. Other over-wintering pests like lady bugs & boxelder bugs enter structures in the late fall, (October & November) and leave as soon as the temperatures begin to warm up again (March & April). Indoor activity of Brown Marmorated Stink bugs on the other hand appears to revolve around the availability of their food source (seeds and fruits), entering structures earlier and exiting later than other over-wintering pests. The typical activity within structures can extend from early September until mid June.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP REDUCE ACTIVITY?

- Caulk any gaps around windows doors, vents & eaves particularly in areas where stink bugs are seen often.
- Screen louvered attic or soffit vents with window screening.

WHAT COOPER PEST SOLUTIONS CAN DO FOR YOU?

Chemical applications to the exterior of the structure can be helpful in reducing activity. Applications are most effective when applied in the months of September and October. Several treatments may be required as the residual lifespan of the chemicals is only effective for a few weeks.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM TREATMENTS

Treatments are not likely to eliminate the problem but will reduce the number of stink bugs that get inside of the structure.