

# UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT OF BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG

Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB, *Halyomorpha halys* – Figure 1) has caused devastating damage to apple and pear crops in North America and Italy, where temperatures favour two generations per year. Defra is funding NIAB to monitor for adult appearance to determine if populations are establishing in the UK (Figure 2).

From 2021 to 2023, sightings of the pest have been made between seven and 11 times per year, but in 2023, numbers of adults recorded at each site were higher; 200 adults were recorded in a campervan that had returned to Yorkshire from France.

To date, only adults have been found and no other life stage of the pest, indicating that there are no breeding populations yet in the UK, but in time establishment is likely to occur.

In 2023, British Apples and Pears Ltd funded NIAB to undertake a further review. Best control is achieved using broad spectrum control sprays, so further work is needed to focus on improved monitoring procedures, deploying more selective control agents and integrating these with cultural and biological control.

Figure 1. Adult brown marmorated stink bug



Figure 2. Monitoring in municipal gardens



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