Damage by stink bugs is becoming noticeable on several crops, especially tomatoes and peaches. The damage to crops is being done both by our new invasive species, the brown marmorated stink bug, as well as our native stink bugs, primarily the one-spotted stink bug and the dusky stink bug.

Stink bugs feed on tomato fruit by sucking plant juices. Both adult bugs and immature nymphs feed this way. This damage can have two different forms. If the stink bugs fed on the fruit when the fruit was still green, the damage on the green fruit looks like irregular white patches (Figure 1), but as the fruit ripens and turns red, the damage patches turn yellow/gold (Figure 2). If the stink bugs did not begin to feed on the fruit until it was turning red, then the damage on the surface of the fruit is whitish ‘ghost spots’ which are somewhat hard to see (Figure 3), but if the fruit skin is peeled back, plugs of bright white tissue will be easily seen in the fruit flesh (Figure 4). The one-spotted stink bug usually hides during the day but feeds on plants during the night, so growers often see the damage but do not see the stink bugs themselves.

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is continuing its westward spread into Ohio from Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and is spreading outward from established hot spots in Columbus, Youngstown, and Cincinnati. In our Ohio stink bug monitoring program, we have pheromone traps deployed in 19 counties throughout Ohio. (Continued on next page)
There has been no detection of the brown marmorated stink bug thus far this year at some sites (Morgan, Monroe, Champaign, Wayne, Ashland, Lorain, Geauga, Sandusky, Cuyahoga Counties), detection of low-density populations as other sites (Madison, Summit, Huron Counties), and moderate at a few (Clinton, Greene, Miami, Mahoning), and high density at a few (Washington, Warren, Franklin Counties). The weekly trap counts can be viewed online using this link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-3GFhTUzohF_18sli2lrKjhqsa215c0ETlz1cSxbWs/edit?usp=sharing.

This week, our pheromone traps are catching more adults and fewer nymphs of BMSB. This pest is being found in redbud, catalpa, and other shade trees, where the majority of individuals seen this week are late-instar nymphs. As the new adults continue to emerge over the next week or two, we expect to see dispersal into susceptible crops such as apples, sweet corn, raspberries, peppers, eggplant, beans, swiss chard, tomatoes, and soybeans. This is the time of year when any sweet corn plantings should be scouted for this pest; the adult and nymphs feed on the developing ear, through the husks. We have seen as many as 10 stink bugs feeding on a single ear of sweet corn.

Stink bugs are very difficult to control because they hide deep in the canopy during the day, they are mobile, and they are not very susceptible to many common insecticides. Insecticides can be effective but repeated applications can be needed, and the products that are effective are those that are known for having harsh effects on beneficial insects such as ladybugs and predatory mites. For conventional growers, pyrethroids such as Capture, Baythroid, Warrior, and Mustang Max are effective for stink bug control, and the neonicotinoids Venom and Belay are effective. For organic growers, Azera has been the most effective in recent tests; Azera is a pre-mix of azadirachtin and pyrethrins. Spinosad products such as Entrust can provide good control of immature stink bugs, but no control of adult stink bugs.
OSU Vegetable Workshop Series

Join the staff at the North Central Ag Research Station near Fremont and OSU Extension on the 2nd Thursday of each month, April through October for catered breakfast, industry updates, and in-depth tips, tricks, and information from researchers to help make your 2016 growing season a profitable one! Attend when the topic suits you, or come each month and stick around after the speaker to view the OARDC field trials or network with peers and industry reps.

2nd Thursday: April – Oct.
*Bring your plant disease and insect samples for identification and same day delivery to the OARDC lab, free of charge!

7:00 a.m. Breakfast
with OSU and industry updates

7:30 a.m. Featured speaker

8:00 a.m. Field walk / networking
Held at NCARS office, No rsvp, No cost!

For more information contact:
Allen Gahler, OSU Extension Sandusky County 419-334-6340
gahler.2@osu.edu

Matt Hofelich, North Central Ag Research Station 419-332-5142
hofelich.4@osu.edu

Aug. 4: Sweet Corn Evaluation/tasting and insect management
Mike Gastler, Extension Educator – Huron County
Celeste Welty, Extension Entomologist

Sept. 8: Pepper Evaluation and field walk
Allen Gahler, Extension Educator – Sandusky County
Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program Briefing
Brenda Turley, CED – Henry County Farm Service Agency

Oct. 13: Soil Health and Water Quality - How does it affect me?
A look at edge of field studies and NCARS water samples
Libby Dayton, OSU Soil Scientist

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VegNet Newsletter
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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Submit Articles:
To submit an article to the VegNet newsletter please send the article and any photos to Brad Bergefurd at bergefurd.1@osu.edu or for questions regarding the newsletter call 740.289.2071 ext.132

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Brad Bergefurd
Bergefurd is an Extension Educator, Agriculture and Horticulture Specialist with Ohio State University Extension, with statewide responsibilities for outreach and research to the agriculture and commercial fruit and vegetable industries Brad has offices at the OSU Piketon Research & Extension Center in Piketon and at OSU Extension Scioto County in Portsmouth.

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