

Stink Bugs

Nancy Shafer, Fort Bend Master Gardener

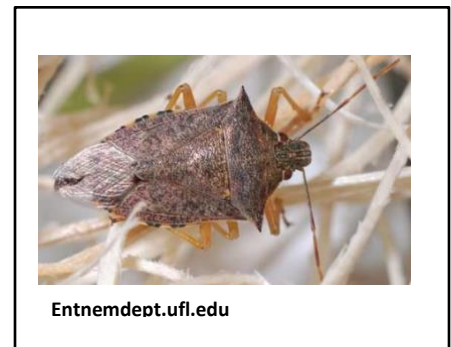


Shield-shaped stink bugs are a group of insects named for the “stinky” substance they produce when they are disturbed or threatened. All stink bugs, adults as well as young, have piercing/sucking mouth parts. Enzymes injected into fruits, vegetables, nuts and vegetation cause liquification at the injection site which causes discoloration and hardened tissue.

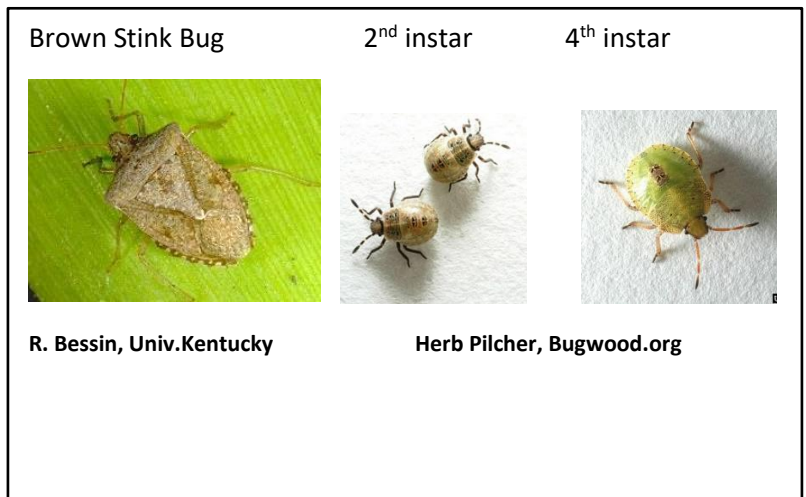
Their barrel-shaped eggs are usually laid in clusters on top of leaves or under leaves. Upon hatching, the young feed in groups. They have a more rounded shape than adults and some have bright markings that change as they go through several molts or instars. As adults, these stink bugs are about 2/3 inch long. Some feed on plants but some of them feed on other insects.

Below are some stink bugs that may be familiar to gardeners in Fort Bend County gardens.

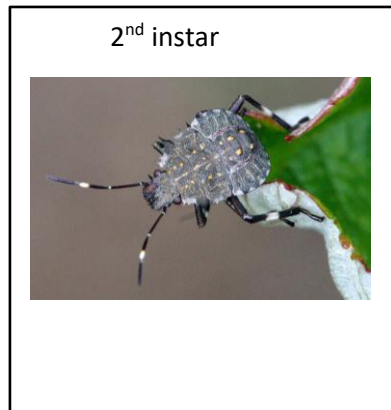
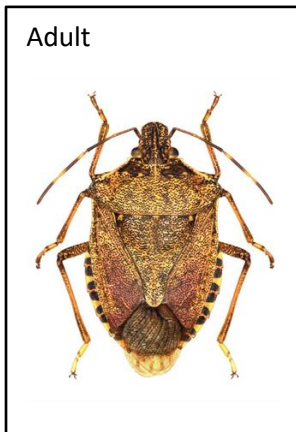
The **Spined Soldier Bug** is a **beneficial** stink bug and should be **welcome** it in our gardens. It has elongated spines on the “shoulders” and interesting eggs with projections. Leave these in the garden to eat pests.



Below are three other stink bugs found in this area that are pests on fruits, nuts, vegetables, and agricultural crops.



The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug is an invasive pest that has been found in 46 states including Fort Bend, Harris, and Montgomery Counties in Texas. Eggs are white and laid in a cluster.



Photos from [Brown Marmorated Stink Bug - Extension Entomology \(tamu.edu\)](https://www.tamu.edu/entomology/extension/pests/brown-marmorated-stink-bug/)

Resources

[brown stink bug - Euschistus servus \(Say\) \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.ufl.edu/entomology/extension/pests/brown-stink-bug/)

[EENY 433/IN796: Brown Stink Bug Euschistus servus \(Say\) \(Insecta: Hemiptera: Pentatomidae\) \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.ufl.edu/entomology/extension/pests/brown-stink-bug/)

[Brown Marmorated Stink Bug - Extension Entomology \(tamu.edu\)](https://www.tamu.edu/entomology/extension/pests/brown-marmorated-stink-bug/)

[Southern Green Stink Bug - Field Guide to Common Texas Insects \(tamu.edu\)](https://www.tamu.edu/entomology/extension/pests/southern-green-stink-bug/)