



New home invading bug to look for: Over the past few years, more and more reports have come in that the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) is taking up residence in homes and businesses in the fall along with the Asian Varying Lady Bird Beetle or Asian Lady bug. Both BMSB and the Asian Lady Bug like to spend the winter in large groups that congregate in homes and other structures. If you are not familiar with this bug, BMSB is a 0.5- by 0.625-inch shield-shaped insect that is a voracious eater of a wide variety of wild and cultivated plants.

BMSB adults and nymphs - the immature stages of the bug - feed on a number of important fruit, vegetable and ornamental crops and have become a major pest for growers in mid-Atlantic states where it was first detected in the late 1990s. Their numbers are growing in Michigan and sightings in homes during the fall can be an early warning system for local growers that this new invasive pest is on the rise in our area. If you or someone you know has seen this pest in or on the outside of your home or place of business, we want to hear from you! A few minutes of your time can be incredibly helpful in officially cataloging and tracking this invasive pest.

Please contact Alicia Wallace, Coordinator of the Bay County Gypsy Moth Suppression Program at 989-895-4195 or via email at wallacea@baycounty.net and a staff member will confirm your sighting and report it to the Michigan Invasive Species Information Network. We can also submit two pictures with each sighting so keep the bug intact so it can be positively identified and photographed.