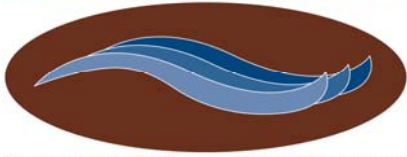


WEST MULTNOMAH



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

September 9, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carolyn Lindberg, WMSWCD,
503/238-4775, ext. 101

Invasion of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug!

OSU Extension Master Gardeners have positively identified an invasive exotic pest that is relatively new to the Pacific Northwest, but already firmly established in Portland. The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), *Halyomorpha halys* (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae), was found September 3, 2009 in eastern Multnomah County. The populations of this stink bug are believed to be confined to the Portland metro area, with the exception of a few specimens found in Salem (which could have been hitch hikers).

It's documented that this pest can injure over 60 plant species and is especially harmful to fruit trees and legumes. According to Oregon Department of Agriculture staff, "this has become so endemic to our area that it's something that we will need to live with. BMSB is considered a major agricultural pest in Asia, where it attacks and damages a wide variety of crops, including apples, pears, peaches, citrus, persimmon, and soy beans. Some Pennsylvania organic farmers have already experienced heavy damage to their fruit harvest by this invasive insect. Similar crops in the Pacific Northwest could be threatened by BMSB if it becomes established and widespread in the region." See attached release, which was sent in 2005 and does not include the latest discovery of the bug in East County.

Master Gardeners, now housed in the office of West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District at 2701 NW Vaughn Street, Ste. 453, are often the first lines of defense in the battle to identify invasive exotic species before they get out of control. If you see this pest, call the Master Gardener hotline at 503/445-4608 or the Oregon Invasive Species Hotline at 1-866-INVADER.

For more information about the stink bug and other invasive species, contact ODA's taxonomic entomologist, James LaBonte, at jlabonte@oda.state.or.us.

###