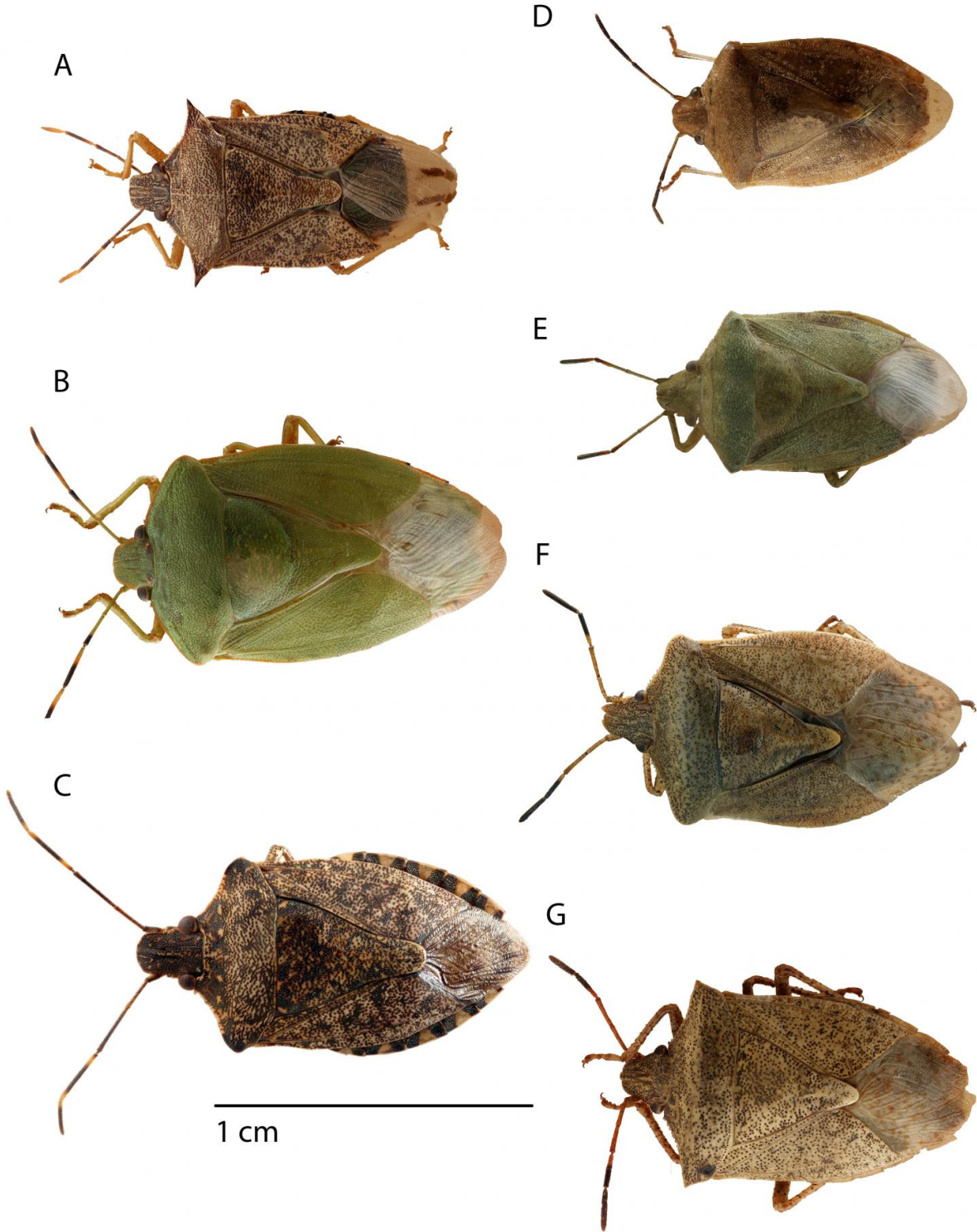


# Stink bugs: Free guide for agricultural integrated pest management

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A new open-access guide in the *Journal of Integrated Pest Management* outlines

the identifying features, lifecycles, behaviors, and management options for a variety of stink bug species that are increasingly common in midwestern soybean and corn fields. Species shown here: (A) *Podisus maculiventris*, (B) *Chinavia hilaris*, (C) *Halyomorpha halys*, (D) *Thyanta custator accerra* (green), (E) *Thyanta custator accerra* (brown), (F) *Euschistus servus euschistoides*, and (G) *Euschistus variolarius*. Credit: Photo credits: Cassandra Kurtz and Christopher Philips, modified by Daniela Pezzini

Farmers in the midwestern United States have been battling increasing infestations from a variety of stink bug species in recent years, and now they have a new free resource for understanding and managing the emerging pests.

Next week, the Entomological Society of America's open-access *Journal of Integrated Pest Management* (JIPM) will publish "Identification, Biology, Impacts, and Management of Stink Bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) of Soybean and Corn in the Midwestern United States," a profile of several of the most common stink bug pests that offers methods for differentiating [species](#), summaries of stink bug life cycles and behaviors, and guidance for monitoring and managing them.

Stink bugs have historically been more prevalent pests in the southern United States, but they are now making more frequent appearances in midwestern fields, according to Robert Koch, Ph.D., assistant professor and extension entomologist at the University of Minnesota and lead author of the JIPM article. "Because [stink bugs](#) are emerging as a new threat to Midwest soybean and [corn](#) production, we felt that there was need for a comprehensive review of these pests that was accessible to producers and agricultural professionals," he says.

Koch and co-authors conducted an extensive review of existing research

on management of stink bugs in developing the new profile aimed at midwestern growers. While "at least 24 species or subspecies of stink bugs could potentially be encountered in soybean and corn in the midwestern United States," the most common [pest](#) species are outlined in the article, including:

- Green sting bug (*Chinavia hilaris*)
- Brown marmorated sting bug (*Halyomorpha halys*)
- Redshouldered sting bug (*Thyanta custator acerra*)
- Brown sting bug (*Euschistus servus*)
- Onespotted sting bug (*Euschistus variolarius*)

In soybean, stink bugs can feed on all above-ground parts of the plant but prefer pods and developing seeds, and the damage they cause can affect yield, seed quality, and germination rates. In corn, stink bugs can feed on corn at all growth stages, but seedling and early reproductive stages of corn are most susceptible.

Koch and colleagues specify scouting methods for measuring stink bug abundance in fields, along with economic thresholds at which management tactics should be deployed. Their research identifies which classes of insecticides may be best suited for individual species and identify additional resources for growers to investigate cultural and biological control measures, as well.

"Stink bugs tend to be generalist pests and can feed on and move between different crops and wild plant species throughout the year," says Koch. The JIPM profile rounds up existing knowledge about stink bugs, much of it from research conducted in southern states, but "further research is needed on corn and soybean response to stink bug feeding in the Midwest," he says.

**More information:** Robert L. Koch et al, Identification, Biology,

Impacts, and Management of Stink Bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) of Soybean and Corn in the Midwestern United States, *Journal of Integrated Pest Management* (2017). [DOI: 10.1093/jipm/pmx004](https://doi.org/10.1093/jipm/pmx004)

Provided by Entomological Society of America

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