

The invasive brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*, BMSB) is the latest exotic pest sighted multiple times in southern Vermont. Over the past decade the BMSB has caused millions of dollars of damage to crops throughout the USA and now threatens Vermont agriculture and forests. Native to China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan the BMSB was introduced to the United States in the 1990's and was first sighted in Pennsylvania. Since its debut, the insect has flourished and is not endemic to one region. They survive colder climates by over wintering indoors becoming a nuisance pest and due to a short maturation time are able to become prolific reproducers in warmer climates, having up to six generations per year. The BMSB has over 300 host plant varieties from apples and orchard fruit, vegetables, crops and ornamentals. Due to the vast array of host plant types a broad-spectrum biological control that is suitable for organic and conventional producers is required to control this exotic pest. To date, there are no affective chemical pesticides or organic pest management solutions. Insect killing fungi is a safe and insect specific biological control that has shown efficacy in laboratory trials. In order to determine the efficacy of the fungi, rearing methods to produce large numbers of even aged juvenile insects were necessary. Egg viability of cold treated egg masses was assessed to achieve this goal. Masses were stored at 2°C and 15°C and were able to postpone hatching for seven and fifteen days respectively with viability over 90% under some conditions. Eggs were hatched at 25°C, 50% relative humidity and a 15D: 9L photoperiod and instar mortality rates were observed. This preliminary rearing technique is vital for future development of biological controls for invasive insects for assays, egg parasitism and integrated pest management.