

INSECT ID SERVICE: THE TOP TWO NEW ARRIVALS IN EASTERN OREGON IN 2013

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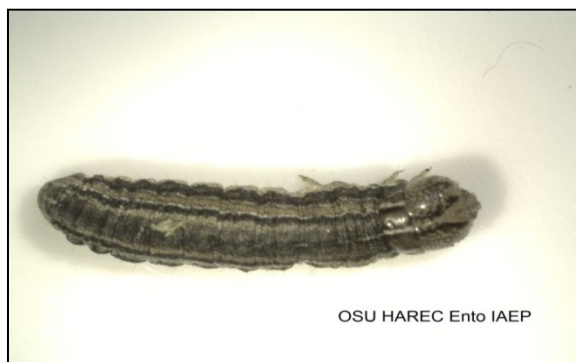
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Accurate identification allows for the most effective means of pest control either in commercial crop fields or urban areas. Correct pest identification is an essential element in pest management. The Oregon State University Extension Service provides identification services for the public and agricultural sectors in the state of Oregon, to help protect and manage their natural resources. Extension agents throughout the state are trained to identify common insects and their close relatives. They are trained in entomology and hold background knowledge on control methods and general biology which allows the specialist to recommend information and resources for selection of efficient and cost-effective control measures. In eastern Oregon, the OSU-HAREC-Irrigated Agricultural Entomology Program (IAEP) has a comprehensive insect identification service (<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/hermiston/entomology-laboratory>).

In 2013, over 129 specimens were received: 27% of the samples came from growers and 73% of the samples were submitted by homeowners. From all samples received, two of those received full press coverage in the area: the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) and Armyworm. Dozens of calls per day, plus emails, visits, etc., were received by IAEP and numerous specimens from around Oregon and Washington were recorded. There was and is a high level of concern in the area for both pests.

BMSB was found in eastern Oregon on 20th September (Nik Wiman's observations), mainly in Catalpa trees in east Hermiston. Since then, reports from around Hermiston, Pendleton, Pilot Rock, Umatilla and Stanfield have been pouring in. At present, overwintering studies are under way. It was unlikely that this insect could survive in eastern Oregon. Now we can still find them outdoor when temperatures are below zero !!!

Armyworms arrived last week of October like an invading army on roads, driveways and lawns. Likewise BMSB, especially homeowners were concerned about



the number of armyworms present in the area. A local survey estimated that at least 20% of the population was controlled by Tachinid flies. Some homeowners hired licensed pesticide applicators. Cold temperatures in early November (around 35°F) did not stop the horde of armyworms. Main specie identified: *Mythimna (=Pseudaletia) unipunctata* (Haworth).