

Read the passage below.

Stink Bugs

1. Stink bugs are a type of bug that is native to East Asia but was accidentally introduced to the United States in the late 1990s. Stink bugs quickly established themselves in large populations. They are difficult to manage because of their large number and large range.

Description

2. Many types of stink bugs exist, so the size of individuals varies. Most adult stink bugs are from 8 to 10 millimeters (0.3 to 0.4 inch) in length. Adults have four wings, six legs, and two antennae. Their beaks are long and narrow. Stink bugs are usually green or brown. Some also have bright white markings. Stink bugs are easy to recognize because they look like they are wearing a triangular shield of armor on their back. Despite their name, stink bugs do not actually stink—unless they are crushed. Then they release a bad smell.

Behavior

3. Most adult stink bugs are active between May and October. In cooler climates, adults hibernate, or sleep, during the winter. In warmer climates, stink bugs don't hibernate but are much less active during the winter.
4. Female stink bugs lay large groups of eggs. The eggs are shaped like barrels, which they place in rows. Females stay close to their eggs to guard them and the larva when they hatch.

Diet

5. Most adult stink bugs are herbivores, which means they feed on plant life, such as leaves, flowers, fruit, and crops. Some types of stink bugs are omnivores. They eat other insects, including caterpillars, as well as plants and crops.

(continued)

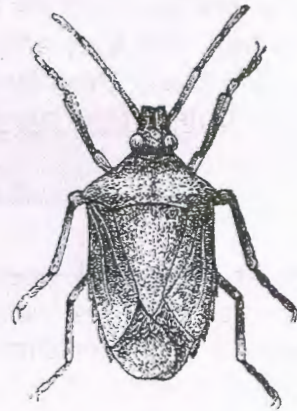
(continued)

Copyright © by
The McGraw-Hill
W 5.2**Habitat**

6. Stink bugs thrive in many different habitats. Outdoors they live in crop fields, orchards, and gardens. However, they also live quite comfortably indoors. Stink bugs can enter houses in many ways, but their nests are most commonly found in attics. They reproduce quickly and can infest a home.

Impact

7. Stink bugs are not harmful to people but are considered pests. This is mostly because they appear in large numbers and reproduce quickly. Stink bugs can be harmful to plant life. They can scar the plants or crops they feed on. If they are present in large numbers, stink bugs can cause crops to fail.

**Read and analyze the prompt.****Informative/Explanatory Prompt**

In paragraph 7, the text states, "Stink bugs are not harmful to people but are considered pests." Use facts from the text to explain why this is true.