

Fact sheet

Green stink bug

What are Green stink bugs?

The Green stink bug (*Chinavia halaris*), is a North American stink bug that feeds on a wide range of crops including grains, fruit and nuts (including pistachio, hazelnut and almonds).

Feeding on pistachio early in the season (before shell hardening) causes epicarp lesions. Damaged nuts will often fall from the tree. Feeding later in the season (after the shell has hardened) can cause kernel necrosis.

Feeding on almonds causes gum to ooze from the nut (gummosis). Kernels can become wrinkled, misshapen or show a black spot at the feeding site. Feeding on hazelnut causes kernel damage.

What does it look like?

The adult Green stink bug is a 14-19 mm long, green coloured, shield shaped bug.

The nymphs are head and thorax are black and orange coloured when they first hatch becoming green as they mature. Nymphs have two black coloured patches in the middle of their abdomen, which become more obvious as they mature.

What can it be confused with?

The Green stink bug could be confused with the other green coloured stink bugs that occur in Australia, such as the Green vegetable bug (*Nezara viridula*) (which is slightly smaller than the exotic Green stink bug), the Red-banded shield bug (*Piezodorus hybneri*) and the Australian Green stink bug (*Plautia affinis*) (which have different colourations to the exotic Green stink bug).

Close examination will be required to correctly identify these species, however the most obvious difference between the exotic Green stink bug and the endemic species is the colouration of the nymphs and the shape and colouration of the adults wing covers. Any unusual stinkbug sightings in your crop should be followed up.



Adult Green stink bug

Daren Mueller, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org



Eggs and First instar nymphs

Brian Little, The University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



Second instar nymphs

Herb Pilcher, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org



Third instar nymphs

Herb Plicher, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org



Fourth instar nymph

Herb Plicher, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org



Fifth instar nymph, note colouration and the black markings on the back of the abdomen

Russ Otters, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

What should I look for?

Look for any unusual green coloured stink bugs or signs of stink bug damage, such as epicarp lesions, or kernel necrosis on pistachio, kernel damage on hazelnuts, or gummosis and misshapen kernels on almonds.

How does it spread?

Green stink bugs could be accidentally spread on plant material. The adults are also capable of flight allowing for localised spread.

Where is it now?

The Green stink bug is currently only reported to occur in North America.

How can I protect my farm from Green stink bugs?

You can protect your farm from Green stink bugs by checking your property frequently for the presence of any new pests and by closely examining the cause of any epicarp or kernel damage. Make sure you are familiar with the symptoms of common pests so you can tell if you see something different.

If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE
1800 084 881**

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