

A New Worry: Stink Bugs



Farmers worry about many things. Some worry about a lack of rain. Others worry about pests that eat the crops. Farmers in the UK have a new worry - stink bugs. For the first time, stink bugs have arrived in the UK. They are not native to the UK. They came from China, Japan or Korea. These smelly insects are now a threat to fruit and vegetable crops in England. The insects get their name from the bad smell they create when they are in danger. Stink bugs were accidentally introduced to the USA in the mid-1990s. They are now a problem for farmers in 44 states.

Stink bugs eat by piercing the surface of fruits and vegetables and sucking out the juice. This makes the fruit rotten. It means farmers cannot sell the crops. The fruit often ends up as juice. An insect expert said there is no risk to our health from stink bugs feeding on fruit and vegetables. He said: "If you eat a damaged fruit, there's no risk to your health. The fruit just doesn't look beautiful." He said stink bugs have a wide diet and can eat over one hundred different types of plants. He added that: "With climate change and global trade, these stories are going to become more frequent."

Matching

Draw a line to the correct definition of the word.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. lack | • Smell really bad. |
| 2. pest | • Being without something or not having enough of something. |
| 3. crops | • Plants that are grown as food on farms, especially a grain, fruit, or vegetable. |
| 4. stink | • By chance' not on purpose. |
| 5. Native | • Brought a new plant, animal, or disease to a place and establish it there. |
| 6. Accidentally | • An insect or other animal that attacks and damages plants growing on farms, food, farm animals, etc. |
| 7. introduced | • A person or thing originally from a particular place |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 8. feed | • Making something go into the mouth using a straw or other thing. |
| 9. piercing | • Happening or done many times, in many cases, or in quickly together. |
| 10. surface | • A situation where there is danger. |
| 11. sucking | • The outside part or top layer of something. |
| 12. rotten | • Of food becoming bad. |
| 13. risk | • Give food to. |
| 14. frequent | • Of something sharp going into or through something. |

Phrase Matching

Draw a line to the words that finish the phrase.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. worry about a lack | a. arrived in the UK |
| 2. pests that eat | b. smell they create |
| 3. stink bugs have | c. for farmers |
| 4. They are not native | d. the crops |
| 5. These smelly insects are now a | e. 1990s |
| 6. the bad | f. threat to fruit |
| 7. in the mid- | g. of rain |
| 8. They are now a problem | h. to the UK |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. piercing the surface | a. types of plants |
| 2. sucking | b. crops |
| 3. This makes the fruit | c. frequent |
| 4. farmers cannot sell the | d. out the juice |
| 5. there is no risk | e. change |
| 6. one hundred different | f. rotten |
| 7. climate | g. of fruits |
| 8. going to become more | h. to our health |

Synonym Match

Match the words to their synonyms (different words with similar meaning).

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|--------------|---------------|
| 1. worry | a. outside |
| 2. lack | b. creating |
| 3. trouble | c. lessened |
| 4. posing | d. problems |
| 5. feel | e. harmed |
| 6. surface | f. be anxious |
| 7. ends up | g. regular |
| 8. damaged | h. sense |
| 9. reduced | i. shortage |
| 10. frequent | j. finishes |

Multiple Choice: Comprehension

Choose the answer.

1) What do some farmers worry about a lack of?

- a) money
- b) rain
- c) sunshine
- d) food

2) Which three countries might the stink bugs have come from?

- a) Serbia, Austria or Hungary
- b) Peru, Ecuador or Bolivia
- c) Senegal, Ghana or Nigeria
- d) China, Japan or Korea

3) When do stink bugs release their smell?

- a) when they feel in danger
- b) in the mornings
- c) after they eat
- d) when they mate

4) When were stink bugs introduced into the USA?

- a) last year
- b) in the 19th century
- c) in the mid-1990s
- d) five years ago

5) In how many U.S. states are stink bugs posing a problem?

- a) 43
- b) 44
- c) 42
- d) 45

6) What do stink bugs pierce when they feed?

- a) the seeds of fruit
- b) the leaves of fruit
- c) the surface of fruits
- d) their ears

7) What often happens to the fruit after a stink bug has eaten its juice?

- a) it gets thrown in the garbage
- b) it gets sold anyways
- c) it ends up as juice
- d) gets sold at a discount price

8) How much risk to human health did an insect expert say there was?

- a) a huge risk
- b) a bit of a risk
- c) a tiny risk
- d) no risk

9) How many types of plants can stink bugs eat?

- a) over 100
- b) 37
- c) dozens
- d) a few

10) What might make these stories more frequent besides climate change?

- a) juicier fruit
- b) global trade
- c) smellier stink bugs
- d) the Internet