

## Tarnished Plant Bug (*Lygus lineolaris*)

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**Tarnished plant bug** (TPB) is a pest of several agricultural crops in North America, including most field crops, tree fruits, and small fruits.



*Adult TPB*

**Adult** is oval, flattened, and greenish-brown with brown markings on the wings. Body length is about 5 mm. A small yellow triangle is located in the center of the back. TPB overwinter as adults, emerging early in the spring. Up to 4 or 5 overlapping generations may occur per year in Minnesota.

■ 5 mm



*TPB nymph*

**Eggs** are cream-colored, flask-shaped, and laid in the tissue of weeds, fruit crops, and other plants. Egg-laying on developing apples begins right around bloom.

TPB has 5 nymph stages. **Young nymphs** are light green, about 1 mm long, and resemble aphids. **Mature nymphs** resemble adults, but are smaller (about 3 mm long), and without full wings. Black dots are located on several parts of the body: one in the middle of the abdomen, two between the developing wing pads, and two on the thorax.

■ 3 mm

Picture source: MSU



**Feeding injury** to apple can occur throughout the season. Early in the spring, adults feed on flower buds, blossoms, and the developing fruit. Shoot injury may also occur.

*Feeding injury that occurs later in the season can cause punctures or dimples on fruit.*

To distinguish adult TPB from look-alike bugs (stink bugs, boxelder bugs, predacious bugs), look for the small yellow triangle located in the center of its back. Calocoris plant bugs have two black dots on their back which are missing in TPB. Also, TPB is mostly brownish while Calocoris bugs are greenish and gray.



*Calocoris plant bug*



*Insidious flower bug (predacious)*



*Boxelder bug*

Young TPB nymphs may be confused with aphids. Aphids have abdominal cornicles (absent in TPB), and move slowly.



*Young TPB nymph*



*Aphid with cornicles (circled)*