

Evaluation of Pepper Cultivars for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Susceptibility, 2012: The varieties 'Paladin' (bell pepper), 'Bounty' (Banana Pepper) and 'Sparky' (Jalapeno Pepper) were transplanted on June 1 at the University of Delaware's Research farm located in Newark, DE. Four row plots 20 ft. long on 6 foot center were replicated 4 times in a RCB design. Five plants from each of the middle two rows (10 total plants) were examined for BMSB adults, nymphs, and egg masses twice a week by direct count from June 5 through August 20. The first adult BMSB adults were detected at low levels on July 9. All the marketable fruit from the center two rows were harvested on July 24, Aug 8 and Aug 20. The total number of damaged fruits was recorded and the number of feeding sites on each damaged fruit was also noted.

Table 1. BMSB Adults – Direct Visual Counts

Date	Average # BMSB Adults per 10 Plants		
	Paladin	Bounty	Sparky
July 9	0.25	0.25	0.25
July 12	0.00	0.00	0.00
July 16	0.00	0.00	0.00
July 19	0.00	0.00	0.00
July 23	0.25	0.00	0.00
July 26	0.50	0.25	0.00
July 30	0.00	0.75	0.25
Aug 2	1.25	0.50	2.75
Aug 6	2.00	2.25	1.25
Aug 9	0.50	0.75	0.50
Aug 13	0.50	0.50	1.25
Aug 20	3.50	1.75	4.25

Table 2. Harvest Data – BMSB Damage

Treatment	Percent BMSB Damaged Fruit ¹		
	July 4	Aug 7	Aug 20
Paladin	0.00a	1.74b	3.57a
Bounty	0.74a	10.63a	3.57a
Sparky	0.00a	2.18b	6.16a

¹ Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different (Tukey's; P=0.05).

Table 3. Mean Number BMSB “Stings” per Fruit

Treatment	Percent BMSB Damaged Fruit ¹		
	July 4	Aug 7	Aug 20
Paladin	0.00a	0.16ab	0.13a
Bounty	0.02a	0.42a	0.08a
Sparky	0.00a	0.08b	0.17a

¹ Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different (Tukey's; P=0.05).

Comments: BMSB populations in each variety were low throughout the season. On Aug 7, the ‘Bounty’ variety has the highest percentage of BMSB damaged fruit. This trend was similar for the mean number of BMSB “stings” per fruit. In general, no overall difference was observed in varietal susceptibility in 2012. These results were similar to our 2011 data.