



# YELLOW SPOTTED STINK BUG

## Legal status: Unwanted organism

## We would like to know if you have seen this insect.

### WHAT IS IT?

Yellow Spotted Stink Bug (*Erthesina fullo*).

Adult YSSBs are large distinctive stinkbugs with yellow markings on their backs. Adults are 18-23 mm long, about the size of a 20c piece. Their natural distribution is through Asia including China and Japan.

The adult bugs lay eggs on leaves in spring and summer and the juvenile stages develop through to adults before winter. Some adults overwinter under bark or in natural crevices and emerge when temperatures warm up to begin breeding.

In their natural range in Asia there is limited information recorded about their host range or impacts on plants and trees, though impacts on timber trees and horticultural crops have been noted. The bugs though, are noted to be polyphagous, meaning they feed on a variety of plants. They feed by inserting their sharp mouthparts (proboscis) into stems, leaves or fruits and sucking up the plant fluids containing sugars and nutrients.

### WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

*Erthesina fullo* is a large, shield-shaped bug with an adult length of about 18 to 23 mm (about the size of a 20 cent piece which is larger than shield bugs currently found in NZ). The body is blackish brown in colour and covered entirely with many small yellow spots.



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### HOW COULD IT GET HERE?

MPI has a number of measures in place to reduce the risk of exotic pests being introduced including requirements for importers and screening at the border. However there is no such thing as zero risk and it is possible the insect could hitch-hike its way into the country.

The YSSB is a known hitchhiker pest which can arrive in New Zealand in containers, or amongst general cargo and used machinery and vehicles. This makes it difficult to identify and manage specific entry pathways.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

Keep an eye out for this distinctive bug. If you find any suspects call MPI on **0800 80 99 66**. If possible take a photograph or even better, if you can, put a sample in your freezer.

## Catch it, call us.

# 0800 80 99 66

