



STATE OF IDAHO



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR
CELIA R. GOULD
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2012

Contact: Pamm Juker
208-332-8620 or
208-332-8500

New Invasive Insect found for the First Time in United States ***Pest detected in Ada and Canyon Counties***



Boise, ID - A new invasive insect, the Elm Seed Bug (*Arocatus melanocephalus*), recently was confirmed in Idaho in both Ada and Canyon counties. Elm Seed Bugs, which have never been found before in the United States, are commonly distributed in central-southern Europe and feed on the seeds of elm trees. The insect does not damage trees or buildings, nor does it present any threat to human health. However, due to its habit of entering houses and other buildings in large numbers to escape the summer heat and later to overwinter, it can be a significant nuisance to homeowners.

Since the Elm Seed Bug is new to the United States, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will take the lead in researching the biology of the pest and its possible impacts, and will develop recommendations about management. Idaho homeowners may contact their county's University of Idaho Extension office for information on dealing with the insect. To locate your local Extension office, please visit <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/about>.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture will continue tracking the movement of the Elm Seed Bug within Idaho. If you suspect you have found the Elm Seed Bug outside of Ada and Canyon counties, please place four or five specimens in a plastic sandwich bag and mail in a regular envelope to: Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Plant Industries Division, P.O. Box 790 Boise, ID 83701. Please include your name, address and phone number or you may call (208) 332-8620 to report the possible find.

###