

# Strawberry bugs

In recent seasons, strawberry bugs have caused havoc in both Victorian and Tasmanian strawberry crops. This has prompted investigation into which bugs cause damage, what type of damage they cause and potential management strategies to deal with them. The aim is to prevent kneejerk spraying, protect beneficial insects and produce excellent fruit. Growers have worked hard to establish integrated management of some serious strawberry pests including western flower thrips and two spotted mites. This project, supported by Horticulture Australia and Strawberries Australia, aims to protect this achievement.

## What's being done

In Victoria, Dr Paul Horne of IPM Technologies is investigating damage caused by 4 of the most commonly found true bug species in strawberry crops. These include Rutherglen bug, crop mirids and two species of *Lygus* or *lygaeidae*. The bugs are currently being collected from crops and caged on Albion strawberries plants to induce damage symptoms. Photos of the bugs and the damage they cause will be used to produce a 'Grower Guide'.



Figure 1 Damage caused by strawberry bugs

## What's happening in Tasmania

A complementary strawberry bug investigation will run in Tasmania in 2014/15.

### Growers workshop

A workshop with Paul Horne for interested strawberry growers is planned for July in Tasmania. This workshop will cover the principles of Integrated Pest Management, strawberry bug identification with specimens, discussion of management options for different strawberry pests and reporting on the findings from the Victorian strawberry bug investigation.

### Monitoring for strawberry bugs

Participating growers have the opportunity to monitor and collect bugs from their strawberry crops in the 2014/15 season. Assistance with materials, monitoring protocols and identification of bugs will be provided.

## How to get involved

If you would like to participate in the workshop or the monitoring program or would just like to find out the results from this investigation, please contact me:

### Contact:

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# Bugs that could be in your strawberries



Broken back bug

*Taylorligus spp*



Broken back bug

*Taylorligus pallidus*



Strawberry bug

*Euander lacertosus*



Mirid, Potato mirid,  
Potato bug

*Closterotomus norvegicus*



Green mirid bug

*Creontiades dilutes*



Apple Dimpling bug,  
Yellow mirid

*Campylomma liebknechti*



Rutherglen bug

*Nysius vinitor*



Tarnished plant bug,  
lygus

*Lygus lineolaris*

**NOT IN AUSTRALIA**