



earth-wise guide to

# Stink Bugs

and similar insects



Brown Stink Bug

## description

**Brown Stink Bug:** Adults are brown with checkered border beneath their wing covers; shield-shaped and 1/2" long

**Southern Green Stink Bug:** Adults are light green; 1/2" long; nymphs are round and bluish-gray with red marks

**Leaf-footed bug:** Adults are dark gray to brown/black; 1" long and 1/3" wide with a yellowish stripe across the back

All emit a distinct odor when handled

## damage

Stink bugs suck juices from leaves, stems and fruits, causing deformed growth; pecan kernels develop black spots

## attack

Many fruits and vegetables, and are especially fond of:

- Tomatoes
- Southern Peas
- Peaches
- Pecans

## Least Toxic Solutions

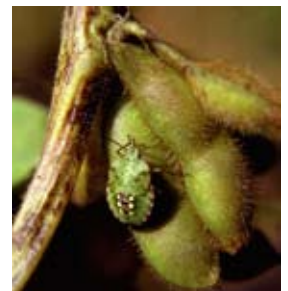
- Control stink bugs only if you have excessive damage to your fruit and vegetable crops
- Control weeds to prevent heavy infestations
- Use row covers as an effective barrier in vegetable gardens
- Properly identify before treating; some stink bug species and their close relatives are beneficial insects; call the Texas AgriLife Extension Service at 854-9600 for more information
- Avoid chemicals and make your yard a haven for beneficial insects. Insects such as pill bugs (sow bugs, roly polys) eat stink bug eggs
- Destroy egg masses and clusters of young nymphs feeding close together; they are particularly damaging to developing fruit, beans, nuts and seeds



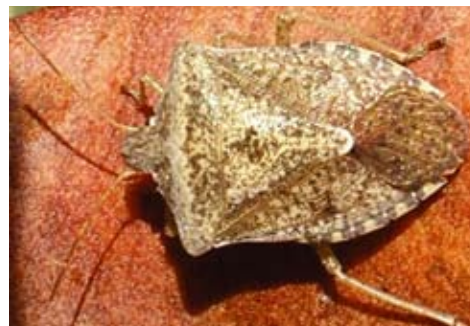
Stink bug nymphs hatching from eggs

## If You Must Use a Pesticide...

- Avoid applying the more toxic pesticides — they destroy both beneficial insects and pests and leave trees or shrubs unprotected if pests return
- Apply pesticides only to plants specified on the label — some formulations injure tender ornamental plants and new growth
- Use pesticides according to directions and apply only recommended dosage
- Systemic pesticides are taken up by the plant and make its tissues and fluids toxic to the feeding stink bugs. Because they remain in plant tissue, systemics are NOT recommended for use on vegetables or fruits



Southern Green Stink Bug



Brown Stink Bug on a leaf

- Non-systemic pesticides must be applied to all infested plant surfaces for best results, because they must come into direct contact with the insects
- Avoid overuse of chemicals — many pests have become resistant to certain pesticides

# product toxicity comparisons

Evaluation of active ingredients only; does not include toxicity information on inert or "other" ingredients.

## Toxicity/Threat:

○ low    ◐ low to moderate    ◑ high    ● highest    NA not applicable  
 ? unknown toxicity    🌍 earth-wise

## Hazards:



note	Product Name	active ingredient(s) / concentrations	human toxicity acute	human toxicity chronic	aquatic life	birds, bees, pets	soil mobility	environmental persistence
	Floating Row Cover	Non-Chemical						
🌱	Bonide® Hot Pepper Wax Ready-to-Use	Capsaicin and related capsaicinoids 0.184%	◐	?	◐	○	?	?
	Ortho® Bug-B-Gon® Max® Lawn & Garden Insect Killer Concentrate Ready-to-Spray	Bifenthrin 0.3%,	◐	?	◐	◑	○	○
	Bayer Advanced™ Complete Insect Killer Dust for Gardens Ready-to-Use	Carbaryl 0.126%	◐	◐	◑	◑	○	○
	Bayer Advanced™ Complete Insect Dust Ready-to-Use	Permethrin 0.25%	◑	◐	◑	◑	◐	◑
	Ortho® Bug- B-Gon® Max® Garden Insect Dust Insect Killer Concentrate Ready-to-Spray	Permethrin 0.25%	◐	?	●	◑	○	◐
most toxic	Diatect® Garden and Floral Insect Control	Silicon dioxide 82.9% Pyrethrin .2% Piperonyl butoxide 1.0%	◐	?	●	◑	○	◐

The City of Austin and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service provide this information as a comparative reference only. Listing of specific product trade names does not constitute an endorsement of its use. Many other pesticides and pesticide products are available and may be suitable for use other than those listed in these tables.

Products rated by Grady J. Glenn, Ph.D., B.C.E., of the Agricultural and Environmental Safety Program, Texas AgriLife Extension Service who can be reached for questions at (979) 862-1035. The rating system was developed by Philip Dickey of the Washington Toxics Coalition.

**identify before you buy**  
 Need help diagnosing a plant problem? Call the Texas AgriLife Extension Service @ 512-854-9600 and ask for the Master Gardener desk or email them at [travismg@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:travismg@ag.tamu.edu)

### why grow green?

The Grow Green program is based on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles that encourage the LEAST TOXIC approach to pesticide and fertilizer use. The goal is to reduce the amount of landscape chemicals that degrade water quality when they run off into waterways or leach into our groundwater.

Grow Green is a partnership between the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department and Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Call 974-2550 or 854-9600 for more information or visit our website at [www.growgreen.org](http://www.growgreen.org)

City of Austin  
**WATERSHED PROTECTION**  
 974-2550

**AgriLIFE EXTENSION**  
 854-9600 Texas A&M System