

A valuable insect in your garden!

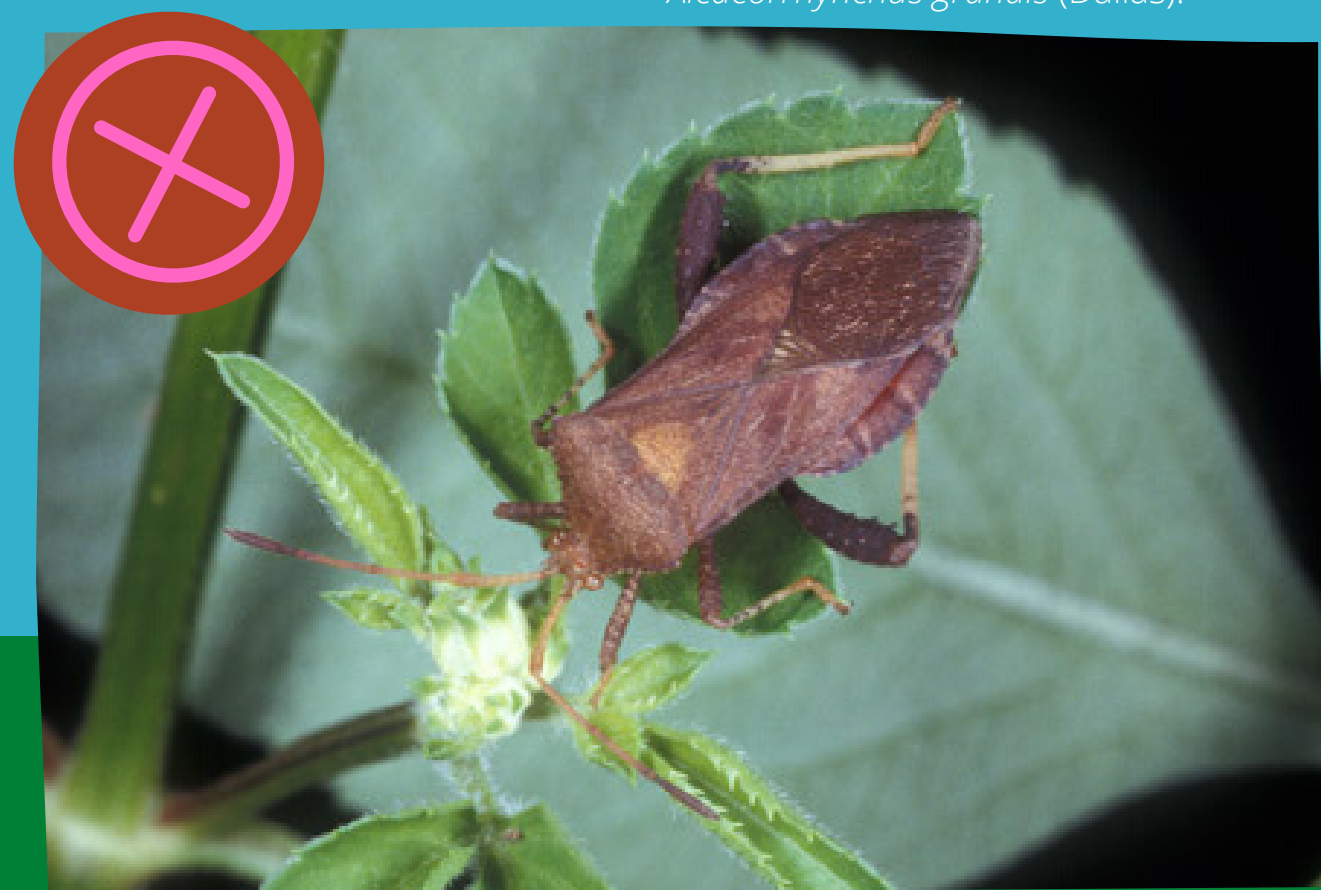
PREDATORY STINK BUGS

Don't confuse them for pests!



Adult predatory stink bug that is unusually red.
Alcaeorhynchus grandis (Dallas).

Predatory insects, like this predatory stink bug to the left, eat pests like caterpillars, aphids, and mites. They often get confused for stink bug pests and become the victims of pesticides. Spraying your lawn or garden with insecticides can kill these beneficial insects that naturally keep pest populations in check. Without their natural predators pests wreak havoc on our lawns and gardens.

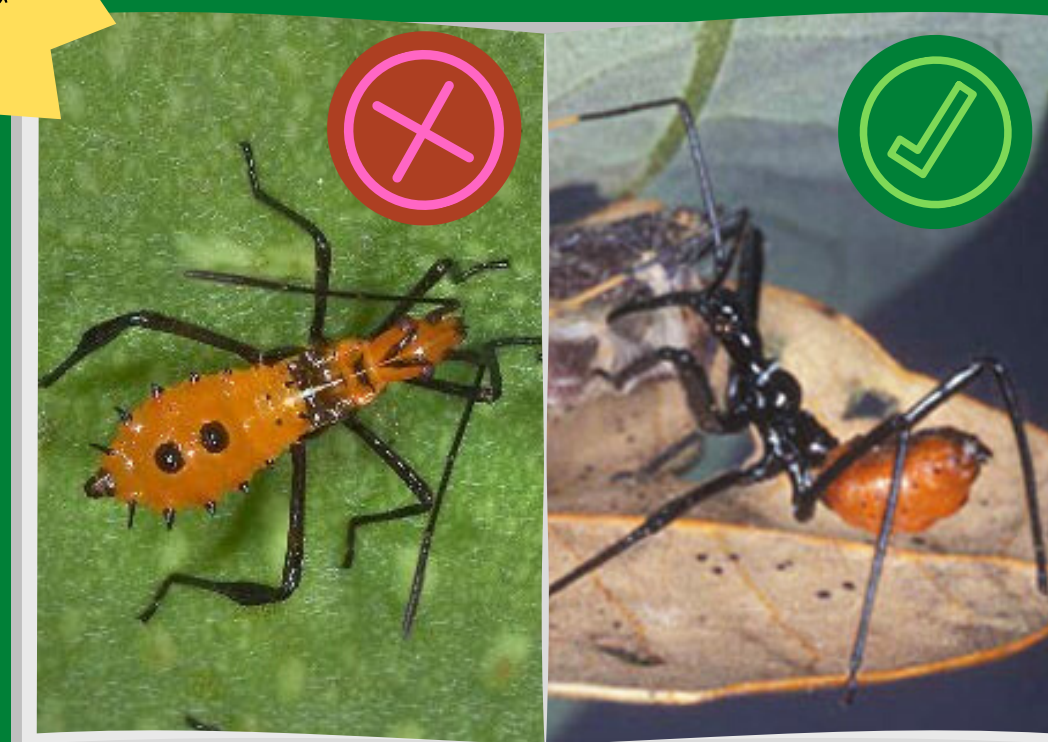
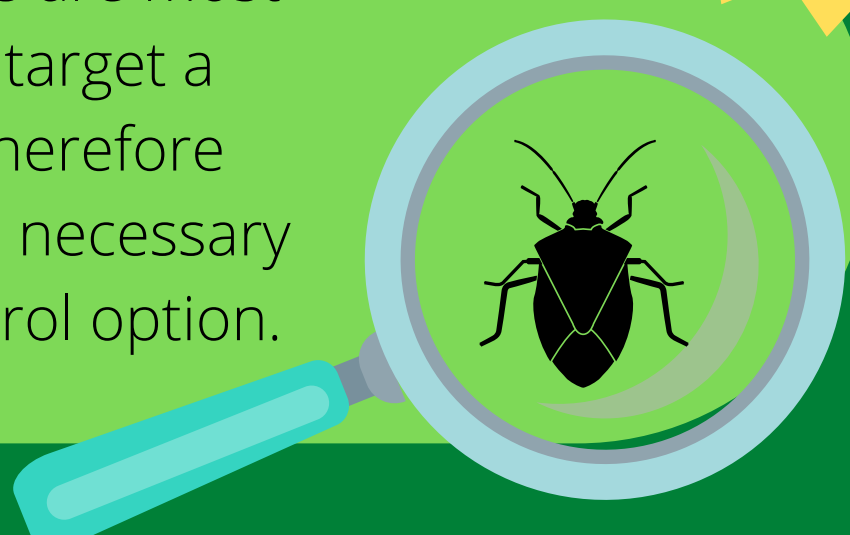


Adult leaffooted bug Adult *Euthochtha galeator* (Fabricius)

You have probably seen leaffooted bugs outside sitting on plants. They are stink bug pests of many different flowers and vegetables that you likely have growing in your garden. You can identify them by their large hind legs that resemble leaves, and piercing mouthparts that help them pierce through plant tissue. Hand picking is an effective natural control option. Don't mistake the nymphs (bottom left photo) with beneficial assassin bug nymphs (bottom right photo) though!

Don't get us confused!

Pest management plans are most effective when they target a specific organism. Therefore proper identification is necessary before selecting a control option.



Managing beneficial insects



Predatory stink bugs can be found in your garden or in commercial crops. This one, *Euthyrhynchus floridanus* (Linnaeus), eats pests like caterpillars, beetles, and other plant-damaging bugs.



This predatory stink bug is *Alcaeorrhynchus grandis* (Dallas). Note the spines on each side of its body below the head. This is a distinguishing feature that sets it apart from pests like the green stink bug *Chinavia hilaris* (Say).



You're
welcome!



Adult predatory stink bug, *Podisus maculiventris* (Say) attacking a caterpillar.



A group of *Alcaeorrhynchus grandis* (Dallas) nymphs attacking a bean leafroller caterpillar.