POCKET GARDENER

Whose Eggs Are These

IPM.NMSU.EDU

Parasitoid Wasp

Coccoon

FIG 1. COCOONS ON HOST

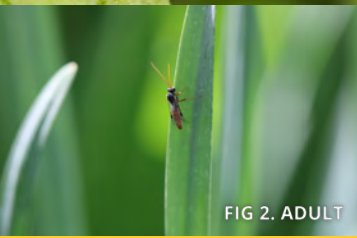

FIG 2. ADULT

FIG 3. ADULT

Leave these cocoons. Parasitoid wasps are beneficial. They help to control hornworm populations and prey on other garden pests. The difference between parasitoid and parasite is that parasitoids kill their hosts.

Mantis

Egg Case (Ootheca)

FIG 1. OOTHECA

FIG 2. ADULT

FIG 3. ADULT & OOTHECA

Leave these egg cases. Mantises are considered beneficial as insect predators. They are opportunistic and will eat anything they can catch.

Mantises overwinter as eggs in the egg case. In New Mexico they hatch in spring.

Ladybug
Eggs

FIG 1. EGGS

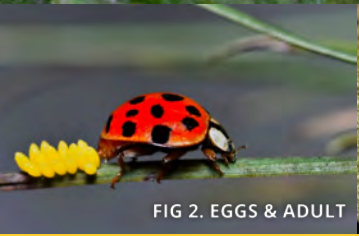

FIG 2. EGGS & ADULT

FIG 3. LARVA

Leave these eggs. Ladybugs (lady beetles) are beneficial insects. Ladybugs lay their eggs near aphids or other insect pests. They hatch in about 3-10 days. The larvae look nothing like the adult (right image) and eat the most prey.

Squash Bug
Eggs


FIG 1. EGGS


FIG 2. ADULTS


FIG 3. NYMPHS

Squish these eggs ASAP. Squash bugs are a difficult pest to control. Frequently check under your leaves and manage them quickly (1x-2x a day). Squash bugs can inject a bacterial toxin into the plant which causes it to wilt and die.

Stink Bug
Eggs

FIG 1. EGGS

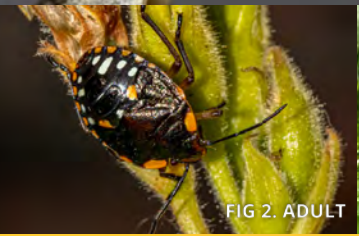

FIG 2. ADULT

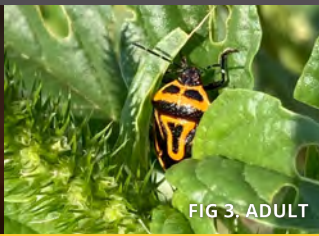

FIG 3. ADULT

Remove these eggs. Although some species are beneficial, others are destructive. For example, the bagrada bug is a problem in various vegetable crops. Stink bugs are more problematic in years with higher rainfall and humidity.

Lacewing
Eggs

FIG 1. EGGS

FIG 2. ADULT

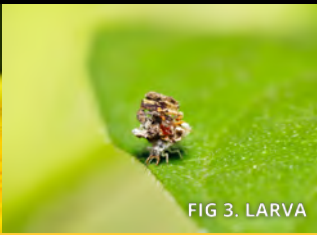

FIG 3. LARVA

Leave these eggs. Lacewings are beneficial insects. They eat aphids, caterpillars, scales, mealybugs and more. A single lacewing larva can consume 300-400 aphids in a two-week period. They are sometimes called "aphid lions".

Key Concepts and Vocabulary

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an approach to pest management that uses a variety of management strategies to suppress pests and keep their populations below damaging levels. The 4 main steps of IPM are:

1. **Prevention** – Reduce or eliminate pest establishment before they become a problem.
2. **Monitoring** – Regularly scouting for pests or signs of damage or disease on your plants.
3. **Identification** – Correctly identify pests through visual inspection, trapping, or consulting a specialist.
4. **Management** – Use the appropriate cultural, mechanical, biological, and chemical measures to keep pest populations at acceptable levels.

Larva: An intermediate stage of an insect. Larva are often wormlike and look very different than the adult.

Nymph: An intermediate stage of an insect. Nymphs often resemble smaller versions of the adult.

Pest: A living organism (such as insects, animals, fungi, bacteria, etc.) which can have a negative impact in your garden.

POCKET GARDENER

Whose Eggs Are These Common Insect Identification Cards

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Summary
These cards are meant to help readers identify and manage common insects in New Mexico home gardens. The suggestions provided are not comprehensive nor intended for commercial purposes. Please consult additional resources for further information.

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Learn more at : ipm.nmsu.edu

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