INSECTS TO LOOK FOR

Ambush bug
Small (¼-½ inch), brown and white, stout with wide rear ends. Predator of caterpillars, found in weedy areas.

Praying Mantid
This famous predator is grayish-brown in color and up to 3 inches long. The modified front arms are able to grab prey.

Florida Woods Roach /Palmetto Bug
This 1-2 inch brown or black roach can be found near mulch piles and decomposing plant material.

Gulf Fritillary
Up to 4 inches wide, this orange and black butterfly can be seen near nectar sources, especially passion flower vines, its favorite food as a caterpillar

Assassin Bug/Wheel bug
Can be red or black up to 1½ inches. Another species, the wheel bug, is large (over 1½ inches) and has a brown wheel atop its head.

Earwig
These 1-inch long insects live near the soil surface often under mulched areas. They have two long pincher type appendages on their backside for grabbing prey.

Lace wing
These delicate ½ inch long insects have lacy green or brown wings and very long antennae. They are often seen near aphid-infested plants or near lights at night.

Ground Beetle

Up to1½ inches. These beetles can be found quickly scurrying on the ground in search of prey. They are often black, but some may be iridescent.

Robber Fly

These large flying predators may be up to 1½ inch long. They often have a "hairy" head with a divot in the top of it.

Rove Beetle

These small (less than ¾ inch) black beetles can be found near compost piles and near the soil surface. They have clubs on the antennae, flexible bodies, and wings that do not cover their hind ends.

Syrphid fly/ Hover fly

These predatory flies (up to ½ inch) often look like bees (but do not sting); however, they only have one pair of wings (like a fly). They are seen hovering near flowers.

Big-Eyed Bugs

These very small (less than ¼ inch) insects are important predators. Their head is wider than it is long, and they have two very prominent eyes on their head.

Walking Sticks

This pest is often found in pairs with the more slender, 1½ inch male riding atop the 3 inch female. The Florida species is often striped.

Jadera Plant Bug

This red and black insect is often found at the foot of goldenrain trees (whose seeds are its favorite food). It is ½ inches long with bright red shoulders and a red rear end.

Mole Cricket

This brownish cricket (up to 1¼ inches) is a pest of grass. At night it can often be found on the ground near lights. The front legs have large claws for digging in the soil.

Bagworm

Up to 2 inches long, these "bags" are found hanging from crape myrtles and other trees. Inside is a destructive caterpillar that defoliates trees.

Bean leafroller

This butterfly relative, up to 2 inches in length, can often be seen near bean plantings (its favorite food). The skipper is brown with 5-7 rectangular spots on the front wing.

Click Beetles

These beetles, which are up to 2 inches long, are black or brown with a body that tapers at the back. If you put them on their back, they make a clicking noise while they attempt to right themselves.

Oleander moth

This brightly colored insect (up to 2 inches) has black and white polka dot wings. The body is blue in the middle with a red rear end.

Chinch Bug

This tiny (less than ¼ inch) turf pest can often be found in St. Augustine grass. The body is black with white wings edged with black. .

Palm Weevil

This huge (1-2 inch) weevil is the largest in North America. These red or black beetles can be found hiding at the stem bases of healthy palms. Look for the long modified mouthparts for making holes in plant material.

Leaf-footed bug

This general plant pest is brown and up to an inch long. The back legs are wide and flattened out.

Colorado Potato Beetle

This ½ inch long orange beetle with black stripes can often be found near its favorite food, potato leaves.

Lubber

This giant orange /red/ yellow grasshopper (black when young) can be over 3 inches in length.