

GROUND BEETLES

There are many species of predatory ground beetles. Some are rather ferocious looking, resulting in some very worried homeowners! These beetles can range in size from $\frac{1}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and can be black or multi-colored. Their antennae are inserted between the eyes.

These shiny beetles are predators of other insects and may enter houses in the spring looking for food (other insects). Ground beetles have well-developed mouthparts but are not known to bite people. They use their strong mouthparts to devour prey. Adult beetles feed on many insects, including caterpillars. Most of their prey is encountered on the ground, but beetles may climb plants to search for food. The larval stages of ground beetles are also predators of insects in the grass and soil. Ground beetles are beneficial insects and are an important part of the natural animal populations in turf, pasture, and crop production. They can be seen regularly in gardens that have been heavily mulched. Most ground beetle species are active at night, hiding during the day in leaf litter.



ADULT PREDATORY GROUND BEETLES

SIZE |—————|

Up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches

For more information check:

<http://www.entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/>

<http://ipm.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/links/index.shtml#entomology>