

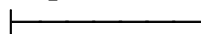
LEAFFOOTED BUG

The leaffooted bug is a widespread and conspicuous minor pest of many crops such as fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts, and ornamentals. It has been reported as a major pest in citrus groves, where its feeding on ripening fruit causes premature color break and fruit drop. Serious infestations of leaffooted bugs are not common, but a large portion of the crop may be lost when they do infest. Leaffooted bugs have a habit of aggregating into large colonies. One tree may be swarming with them while a neighboring tree is entirely free.

Adult leaffooted bugs have been collected each month of the year in Florida, but populations attain peak numbers during the warmer months. Leaffooted adults and nymphs suck juices from plants, leaving a puncture that later may become surrounded by a discolored zone due to invasion of secondary pathogens. Several species of parasitoid wasps attack the eggs of leaffooted bugs. Insect predators also consume leaffooted bug eggs. Weed management is an important cultural control since thistles and other weeds can serve as alternative host plants for leaffooted bugs.



SIZE **Up to 1 inch**



From UF featured creatures website at
http://www.entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/leaffooted_bug.htm and
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