

Friend or Foe?

MEET SIX PEST INSECTS AND THE BENEFICIAL BUGS THEY RESEMBLE, AND FIND OUT HOW TO ELIMINATE THE TROUBLEMAKERS AND INVITE THE GOOD GUYS BACK.



MEXICAN BEAN BEETLES

Epilachna varivestis

Positive ID: They are yellow-

brown, with eight spots on each wing.

Bad behavior: The adults and larvae chew holes in every part of bean plants.

Control: The blend of potassium salts of fatty acids (soap), neem oil extract, and pyrethrins in Safer Brand EndALL Insect Killer targets bean beetles at all stages.



LADY BEETLES

Coccinellidae spp.

Positive ID: Some species have spots, others have none.

Good deed: The voracious orange larvae eat aphids by the dozens.

Attract: Dill, cilantro, marigolds, and tansy provide nectar to adult ladybugs.



EARWIGS

Forficula auricularia

Positive ID: They have two pointy pinchers on their tails.

Bad behavior: They chew down seedlings and feed on strawberries.

Control: Safer Brand Ant and Crawling Insect Killer forms a protective barrier around seedlings and berries.



ROVE BEETLES

Staphylinidae spp.

Positive ID: Their wing covers are so short that their abdomens are exposed.

Good deed: Rove beetles prey on mites, maggots, fleas, and other pests.

Attract: The beetles hide in leaf litter, compost piles, and mulch.



SQUASH BUGS

Anasa tristis

Positive ID: They show up on all squash family plants.

Bad behavior: They suck the sap from the leaves of cucumbers, zucchini, melons, pumpkins, and other squashes.

Control: Soap in Safer Brand Insect Killing Soap uses potassium salts of fatty acids to weaken the insects' outer shells.



SPINED SOLDIER BUGS

Podisus maculiventris

Positive ID: Spurs on their backs make these pest predators appear as fierce as their name suggests.

Good deed: Soldier bugs pierce grubs, caterpillars, and other pests.

Attract: Pass on toxic pesticides, which kill more of these bugs than their prey.



MEALYBUGS

Pseudococcus longispinus

Positive ID: Mealybugs secrete a waxy coating.

Bad behavior: They suck the sap out of young plants and flower buds.

Control: The soap in Safer Brand 3-in-1 Garden Spray washes the coating off mealybugs and dehydrates them.



MEALYBUG DESTROYERS

Cryptolaemus montrouzieri

Positive ID: Mealybug destroyer larvae look like mealybugs, but are twice as large and more active.

Good deed: They not only destroy mealybugs, they also eat aphids.

Attract: Yarrow and coreopsis provide nectar to adult mealybug destroyers.



CHINCH BUGS

Blissus leucopterus

Positive ID: Chinch bugs feed on lawns and stay hidden in the turf, close to the soil surface.

Bad behavior: They suck sap from grass and turn sections of lawn brown.

Control: The active ingredient in Safer Brand Grub Killer controls chinch bugs too.



BIG-EYED BUGS

Geocoris spp.

Positive ID: Though they're tiny, you can see the bulging eyes on the sides of their heads.

Good deed: They prey on small caterpillars, mites, fleas, and other tiny pests.

Attract: Big-eyed bugs roost on cosmos, spearmint, and goldenrod.



YELLOW JACKETS

Vespula spp.

Positive ID: Though often called "bees," yellow jackets are wasps that flock to human food and trash cans.

Bad behavior: They sting people and can make outdoor meals uncomfortable.

Control: The Victor® Yellow Jacket Trap With Bait lures the wasps away from you. Eliminate entire nests with Safer Brand Wasp and Hornet Killer.



HOVERFLIES

Syrphidae spp.

Positive ID: They have yellow and black bands that make them look like tiny yellow jackets.

Good deed: The larvae feed on aphids and other soft-bodied pests.

Attract: Nectar-feeding adult hoverflies like parsley, lavender, daisies, and lemon balm.