

# A Bug's Life

# Carolina praying mantis

*Stagmomantis carolina*

## Fun facts

- Native to North America, first described from the Carolinas
- Rectangular egg case (ootheca) stuck to structures, sticks, and various objects to overwinter
- Several dozens of nymphs emerge from ootheca in the spring
- One generation per year, adults die before winter

## Identification

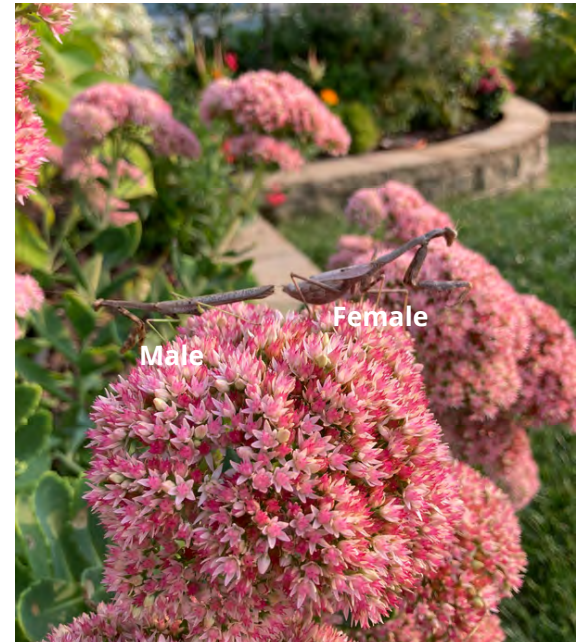
Between 2-3" long; raptorial forelegs; mottled brown, gray or green; nymphs are able to change color to match environment; wings have dark spots  
Male: Full length wings completely covering slender abdomen, readily flies  
Female: 3/4- length wings revealing enlarged abdomen, does not fly

## Management

- Generalist predator of both pest insects and pollinators
- Good to have in the ecosystem
- No management required

## Caution

- When handling, raptorial legs have spines that can grasp and pinch



Photos: J. Green