

A Bug's Life

Minute pirate bug

Orius insidiosus

Fun facts

- Tiny bug with a painful bite
- Does not feed on blood, but bites are random and irritating
- Common insect on on flowers throughout the season
- Feed on aphids, thrips, spider mites, small insects and their eggs
- Overwinter as adult

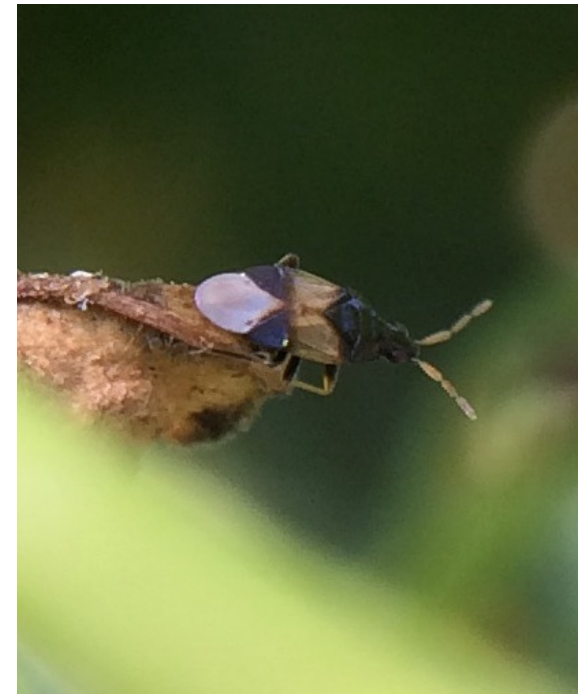
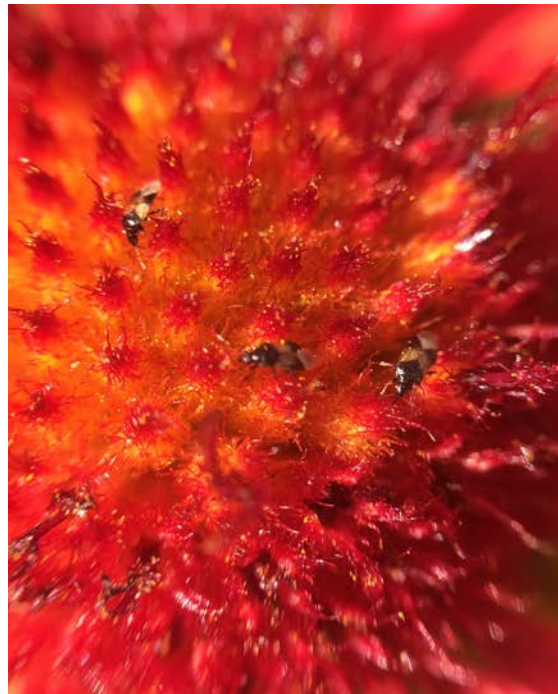
Identification

Damage: Small black specks that land on bare skin in the fall, painful bite results in smashed bug on skin

Adult: 1/8" long, oval-shaped, black body with gold band, tip of wings resemble a white teardrop, piercing-sucking mouthpart

Management

- Sometimes used as biocontrol agent for soft-bodied plant pests
- No practical methods of control
- Wear loose clothing and keep skin covered when possible
- Insect repellents are not effective against these insects



Photos: J. Green