

A Bug's Life

Spined soldier bug

Podisus maculiventris

Fun facts

- Most common predatory stink bug in North America
- Nymphs go through 5 stages/ instars where each are unique
- Found on prey's host plant, with thick mouthpart extended into prey
- Generalist predator so eats both bad bugs and good bugs, including monarch caterpillars

Identification

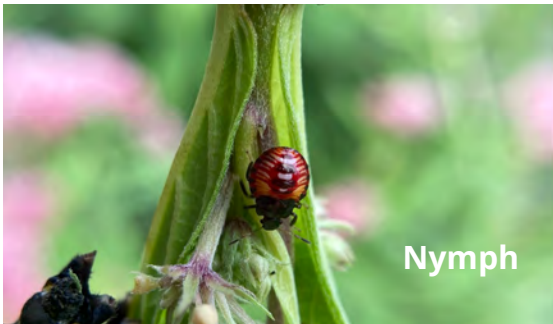
Egg: Bronze eggs laid in cluster with crown-like projections

Nymph: Early instars red and black, older nymphs red, white and orange with oval markings

Adult: ~1/2" long, brown, shield-shaped, pointy spines on "shoulders", end of wings have a black streak in the middle

Management

- No management required
- Chemical treatment not needed
- Beneficial insect because of pest control services as nymph and adult



Photos: J. Green