

A Bug's Life

Fun facts

- Largest assassin bug in US
- Active from June to November
- All life stages are predatory
- Nymphs hatch in spring
- Mate in fall and male guards female
- 1 generation per year



Identification

Egg: Laid in hexagonal clusters on trees trunks, limbs and shrubs

Nymph: Bright red with black marks, get darker in later stages

Adult: Large, gray-black bug with long antennae, large beak-like mouthpart and "wheel" on back



Wheel bug

Arilus cristatus

Management

- None recommended
- Beneficial because of free pest control services for a range of pests

Caution

- Do not handle, can inflict a painful bite



Photos: J. Green