



## **Leaffooted bugs**

Leaffooted bug adults may be mistaken for stink bugs while the immatures may get confused with assassin bug nymphs. Leaffooted bugs are larger than stink bugs and have an elongated body. Often, leaffooted bugs have an expanded region on their hind leg that looks similar to a leaf, hence the name leaffooted bug. Adults are fairly large and grayish-brown.

Immatures, or nymphs, look similar to adults, but are often reddish-orange in color and do not have fully developed wings. Assassin bug immatures will not have the leaf shape on their hind leg and also tend to have a thicker mouthpart. Also, if you see insects clustered together, like in the photo below, then they most likely will be feeding on the plant since predaceous insects don't want to hang out with other predators.



Immature leaf-footed bugs.

Adult leaf-footed bug.

Leaf-footed bugs feed on a variety of fruits, nuts and seeds, such as tomatoes, peppers, pecans or sunflower seeds. They have piercing-sucking mouthparts with which they puncture fruit to suck out juices. The opening left behind after the mouthpart is withdrawn can allow access to secondary invaders like bacteria or fungus.

Leaf-footed bugs can be managed by hand-picking (be sure to wear gloves if utilizing this method), using hand-held vacuums to suck the insects off the plant, or by treating the plants with pesticides. If choosing to use a pesticide, read the product label and make sure it can be used in the area you are treating (i.e. vegetable garden).

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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