About this guide

This guide was created to provide information about some common, but still unfamiliar, insects and spiders spotted in homes across Oregon. There are over 20,000 species of insects in Oregon, therefore this is not a complete guide. This guide is intended to help residents make informed decisions about pest control. We hope to reduce some of the unfounded fears and misconceptions about insects and spiders.

Giant house spider- *Eratigena atrica*
Hobo spider - *Eratigena agrestis*

Notes: Introduced from Europe. Common in houses and basements. Usually seen when males search for females in late summers are fall. House spiders and hobo spiders look very similar. Hobo spider bodies range from 8-14mm, whereas giant house spiders have bodies as large as 18mm.

Much misinformation has been spread about the danger of these species to people. Studies of spider bites by OHSU found little or no evidence of harmful venom. Neither species is considered harmful.

Pest Status: None.These species pose little or no risk to people. Bites are possible but very unlikely.

Management: None. If spiders are found in homes, look for points of entry such as gaps under doors in garages or basements, or unscreened windows.

actual size ~ 1.5 in

Hobo spiders and house spiders are not any more venomous than other common spiders in Oregon. Most spiders are considered harmless and are unlikely to bite people.

A note about insects and spiders

Jumping spiders are common, harmless, and fascinating.

Insects and spiders have a bad reputation for being dangerous, deadly, destructive or disgusting. This is an unfair characterization of the largest group of organisms on the planet. Of the more than one million known insects, only a very small percentage of these are considered "pests", or species that cause problems for people. There are more myths about the threat of insects and spiders than can fit into this pamphlet, but you should know: **Most insects and spiders are completely harmless to people.** Insects enter homes looking for food (often in the form of other insects or food crumbs), for shelter, or completely by accident. Some insects are capable of causing very severe economic damage to crops and structures, and others can spread disease, but most insects and spiders are not problematic in any way.

If you find an insect that might be a pest, it's essential to know what it is before hiring exterminators or applying pesticides. The Oregon Department of Agriculture provides free insect identification for members of the public and for agriculture industry professionals. In many cases, no action is necessary because the insect is not a pest. There may be solutions besides pesticides that can help reduce insect populations. However, not every insect pest problem has a simple solution. In many cases, control methods are difficult, costly, or simply unknown.

For more information

If you have questions, or would like to have an insect identified, contact us:

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Insect Pest Prevention & Management Program

635 Capitol St. NE, Ste. 100
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-4636 or 1-800-525-0137
www.Oregon.gov/ODA/Plant/IPPM

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Do not send photos of suspected injuries (bites and stings), biological samples, or other materials for insect identification or diagnosis!

Entomlogists are not health care professionals. Oregon Department of Agriculture cannot identify an insect or spider from descriptions of symptoms or pictures of insect bites or stings. They will not offer any advice regarding injury diagnosis or health care. For information about insect bite treatment or other health concerns, please consult a health care professional.

Oregon Department of Agriculture
IPPM Insect Pest Prevention & Management

All photos by Oregon Department of Agriculture except *H. axyridis* larvae image by André Karwath via Wikimedia Commons (CC license 3 .0).
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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GUIDES

Household Insects & Spiders

Information about common arthropods found in and around homes in Oregon

IPPM Insect Pest Prevention & Management
Oregon Department of Agriculture

Multicolored ladybird beetle - *Harmonia axyridis*

The "M" pattern behind the head the best way to identify this species.

Ladybug larvae do not usually resemble their adult forms.

Notes: Introduced in the US in the early 1900s to feed on aphids. Often distinctive "M" behind head, wing covers variable.

Pest Status: Often invades homes in early fall to overwinter. Also considered a contaminant in winegrape harvest.

Management: Pesticide applications are not recommended. Exclusion via sealing of entry points (windows, doors, and vents) is currently the best recommendation. Crushing or vacuuming can lead to surface stains and unpleasant odor.

Bed bug - *Cimex lectularius*

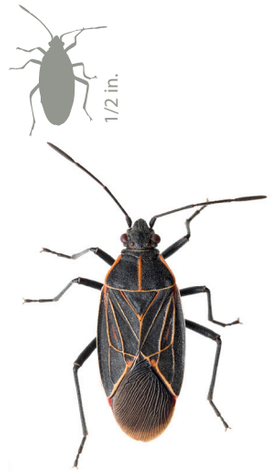
Notes: *C. lectularius* feeds on human blood. Bed bugs have become a problem recently presumably due to developing resistance to commonly used pesticides.

Pest Status: Usually feed at night and are found in mattresses or furniture. Do not transmit disease.

Management: Difficult. Professional management is recommended, and repeated efforts may be necessary.

Immature and adult bedbugs are very small, but evidence of them can be found in the form of rusty spots, dark spots on mattresses and furniture.

Western box elder bug – *Boisea rubrolineata*



Oval-shaped black body with red or orange lines on their body and forewing.

Notes: Native to western North America.

Pest Status: Nuisance pest. Adults and nymphs feed on seeds of maple trees, but do not cause damage to tree. Populations get very large in spring and summer, but infestations are relatively short.

Management: Pesticide applications are not recommended, as populations are widespread. Exclusion via sealing of entry points (windows, doors) is recommended.

Elm seed bug – *Arocatus melanocephalus*

Notes: First detected in Oregon in 2012, and are known from southern and eastern Oregon and the Portland area.

Pest Status: Nuisance pest. Adults and nymphs feed on elm seeds and do not cause plant damage. Home infestations can be large in midsummer.

Management: Pesticide applications are not recommended. Exclusion via sealing of entry points (windows, doors and vents) is currently the best recommendation.

Tiny red and black body, found in large numbers indoors during midsummer.

Brown marmorated stink bug - *Halyomorpha halys*

Notes: First detected in US in 1996, Oregon in 2004.

Pest Status: Severe invasive crop and urban nuisance pest

Management: Research is ongoing but some pesticides have been shown to be effective in crop systems. For homeowners, exclusion via sealing of entry points (windows, doors) is recommended. Research into the introduction of natural enemies is in progress.

Shield shaped body with white banding on antennae and along abdomen.

Garden cross spider - *Araneus diadematus*

Large abdomen with white cross pattern, very common in the summer months.

Notes: Common outside homes in Oregon. Introduced from Europe. They become very noticeable as adults in the late summer and fall. Size can vary from the pinhead sized spiderlings to mature females that have bodies half an inch long.

Pest Status: None.

Management: None. This species is very docile, non-aggressive, and poses little to no risk to people. Bites are possible but very unlikely.

Tuxedo bug - *Raglius alboacuminatus*

Notes: First detected in Oregon in 2002. Feed on seeds of weedy plants.

Pest Status: Nuisance pest. Large populations invade homes in late summer and fall. Can produce a foul smell when crushed.

Management: Pesticide applications are not recommended. Exclusion via sealing of entry points (windows, doors, and vents) is currently the best recommendation.

Distinctive white spots on the tips of forewings and hindwings.

Indianmeal moth - *Plodia interpunctella*

Distinctive wing pattern of white and dark orange/ brown areas with black banding.

Notes: Indianmeal moth larvae feed on stored products such as grain products, cereals, dog food and other dried food products. They are very commonly in households and grocery stores. They are found worldwide.

Pest Status: Larvae damage food products by feeding, spinning silk cocoons, and leaving behind fecal matter and pupal cases.

Management: Keep containers of food tightly sealed, especially bagged products. Traps for adult moths are available.