

# Friend or Foe?

MEET SIX PEST INSECTS AND THE BENEFICIAL BUGS THEY RESEMBLE, AND FIND OUT HOW TO ELIMINATE THE TROUBLEMAKERS AND INVITE THE GOOD GUYS BACK.



## MEXICAN BEAN BEETLES

*Epilachna varivestis*

**Positive ID:** They are yellow-

brown, with eight spots on each wing.

**Bad behavior:** The adults and larvae chew holes in every part of bean plants.

**Control:** The blend of potassium salts of fatty acids (soap), neem oil extract, and pyrethrins in Safer Brand EndALL Insect Killer targets bean beetles at all stages.



## LADY BEETLES

*Coccinellidae spp.*

**Positive ID:** Some species have spots, others have none.

**Good deed:** The voracious orange larvae eat aphids by the dozens.

**Attract:** Dill, cilantro, marigolds, and tansy provide nectar to adult ladybugs.



## EARWIGS

*Forficula auricularia*

**Positive ID:** They have two pointy pinchers on their tails.

**Bad behavior:** They chew down seedlings and feed on strawberries.

**Control:** Safer Brand Ant and Crawling Insect Killer forms a protective barrier around seedlings and berries.



## ROVE BEETLES

*Staphylinidae spp.*

**Positive ID:** Their wing covers are so short that their abdomens are exposed.

**Good deed:** Rove beetles prey on mites, maggots, fleas, and other pests.

**Attract:** The beetles hide in leaf litter, compost piles, and mulch.



## SQUASH BUGS

*Anasa tristis*

**Positive ID:** They show up on all squash family plants.

**Bad behavior:** They suck the sap from the leaves of cucumbers, zucchini, melons, pumpkins, and other squashes.

**Control:** Soap in Safer Brand Insect Killing Soap uses potassium salts of fatty acids to weaken the insects' outer shells.



## SPINED SOLDIER BUGS

*Podisus maculiventris*

**Positive ID:** Spurs on their backs make these pest predators appear as fierce as their name suggests.

**Good deed:** Soldier bugs pierce grubs, caterpillars, and other pests.

**Attract:** Pass on toxic pesticides, which kill more of these bugs than their prey.



## MEALYBUGS

*Pseudococcus longispinus*

**Positive ID:** Mealybugs secrete a waxy coating.

**Bad behavior:** They suck the sap out of young plants and flower buds.

**Control:** The soap in Safer Brand 3-in-1 Garden Spray washes the coating off mealybugs and dehydrates them.



## MEALYBUG DESTROYERS

*Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*

**Positive ID:** Mealybug destroyer larvae look like mealybugs, but are twice as large and more active.

**Good deed:** They not only destroy mealybugs, they also eat aphids.

**Attract:** Yarrow and coreopsis provide nectar to adult mealybug destroyers.



## CHINCH BUGS

*Blissus leucopterus*

**Positive ID:** Chinch bugs feed on lawns and stay hidden in the turf, close to the soil surface.

**Bad behavior:** They suck sap from grass and turn sections of lawn brown.

**Control:** The active ingredient in Safer Brand Grub Killer controls chinch bugs too.



## BIG-EYED BUGS

*Geocoris spp.*

**Positive ID:** Though they're tiny, you can see the bulging eyes on the sides of their heads.

**Good deed:** They prey on small caterpillars, mites, fleas, and other tiny pests.

**Attract:** Big-eyed bugs roost on cosmos, spearmint, and goldenrod.



## YELLOW JACKETS

*Vespula spp.*

**Positive ID:** Though often called "bees," yellow jackets are wasps that flock to human food and trash cans.

**Bad behavior:** They sting people and can make outdoor meals uncomfortable.

**Control:** The Victor® Yellow Jacket Trap With Bait lures the wasps away from you. Eliminate entire nests with Safer Brand Wasp and Hornet Killer.



## HOVERFLIES

*Syrphidae spp.*

**Positive ID:** They have yellow and black bands that make them look like tiny yellow jackets.

**Good deed:** The larvae feed on aphids and other soft-bodied pests.

**Attract:** Nectar-feeding adult hoverflies like parsley, lavender, daisies, and lemon balm.