

Green Vegetable Bug

Farmer
Fact Sheet

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What is it?

A large green bug on brassicas, cucurbits, legumes and other crops. The scientific name is *Nezara*.

Damage

The bugs feed on young flowers, fruits and seeds using needle-like mouthparts. Feeding leads to brown or black spots. It also allows entry of fungi and bacteria that cause rots. On Yard long bean, the bugs sucks the seeds, and the pods become misshapen, dry and shrivelled.



How do I identify it?

Look for a large green bug about 15 mm long with long needle-like mouthparts often feeding on the seeds of Yard long beans and other legumes (photo, left). Look for them in the morning when they sit in the sun. Eggs are laid in batches on undersides of leaves, and the nymphs are black at first, becoming greener as they moult (photo, right). The bugs are strong flyers.

How to manage the green vegetable bug

CULTURAL CONTROL

- Avoid planting crops of beans next to older ones, as the bugs easily fly to the new crop;
- Weed around the crop, as many weeds are breeding hosts for the Green vegetable bug;
- Plant a trap crops such as Rattle pod, *Crotalaria*; the bug goes to the *Crotalaria* first.

CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Use synthetic pyrethroids, eg lambda cyhalothrin or permethrin. Use those that are least persistent in the environment, and have low toxicity against bees.
- Use a variety of *Derris*, brought many years ago from Papua New Guinea. It contains rotenone, an insecticide. Contact MAL or KGA for plants to grow and test.

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