Least Toxic Solutions

- Control stink bugs only if you have excessive damage to your fruit and vegetable crops
- Control weeds to prevent heavy infestations
- Use row covers as an effective barrier in vegetable gardens
- Properly identify before treating; some stink bug species and their close relatives are beneficial insects; call the Texas AgriLife Extension Service at 854-9600 for more information
- Avoid chemicals and make your yard a haven for beneficial insects. Insects such as pill bugs (sow bugs, roly polys) eat stink bug eggs
- Destroy egg masses and clusters of young nymphs feeding close together; they are particularly damaging to developing fruit, beans, nuts and seeds

If You Must Use a Pesticide...

- Avoid applying the more toxic pesticides — they destroy both beneficial insects and pests and leave trees or shrubs unprotected if pests return
- Apply pesticides only to plants specified on the label — some formulations injure tender ornamental plants and new growth
- Use pesticides according to directions and apply only recommended dosage
- Systemic pesticides are taken up by the plant and make its tissues and fluids toxic to the feeding stink bugs. Because they remain in plant tissue, systemics are NOT recommended for use on vegetables or fruits
- Non-systemic pesticides must be applied to all infested plant surfaces for best results, because they must come into direct contact with the insects
- Avoid overuse of chemicals — many pests have become resistant to certain pesticides

**Brown Stink Bug:** Adults are brown with checkered border beneath their wing covers; shield-shaped and 1/2" long

**Southern Green Stink Bug:** Adults are light green; 1/2" long; nymphs are round and bluish-gray with red marks

**Leaf-footed bug:** Adults are dark gray to brown/black; 1" long and 1/3" wide with a yellowish stripe across the back

All emit a distinct odor when handled

**Brown Stink Bug on a leaf:** Stink bugs suck juices from leaves, stems and fruits, causing deformed growth; pecan kernels develop black spots

**Southern Green Stink Bug:**

**Stink bug nympha hatching from eggs:**

**Brown Stink Bug on a leaf:**

**Earth-wise guide to Stink Bugs and similar insects**

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**Damage:**

- Many fruits and vegetables, and are especially fond of:
  - Tomatoes
  - Southern Peas
  - Peaches
  - Pecans
**product toxicity comparisons**

Evaluation of active ingredients only; does not include toxicity information on inert or “other” ingredients.

### Toxicity/Threat:
- low
- low to moderate
- high
- highest
- NA not applicable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>note</th>
<th>Product Name</th>
<th>active ingredient(s) / concentrations</th>
<th>human toxicity chronic</th>
<th>aquatic life</th>
<th>birds, bees, pets</th>
<th>soil mobility</th>
<th>environmental persistence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Floating Row Cover</td>
<td>Non-Chemical</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bonide® Hot Pepper Wax Ready-to-Use</td>
<td>Capsaicin and related capsaicinoids 0.184%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ortho® Bug-B-Gon® Max® Lawn &amp; Garden Insect Killer Concentrate Ready-to-Spray</td>
<td>Bifenthrin 0.3%</td>
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<td>Bayer Advanced™ Complete Insect Killer Dust for Gardens Ready-to-Use</td>
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The City of Austin and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service provide this information as a comparative reference only. Listing of specific product trade names does not constitute an endorsement of its use. Many other pesticides and pesticide products are available and may be suitable for use other than those listed in these tables.

Products rated by Grady J. Glenn, Ph.D., B.C.E., of the Agricultural and Environmental Safety Program, Texas AgriLife Extension Service who can be reached for questions at (979) 862-1035. The rating system was developed by Philip Dickey of the Washington Toxics Coalition.

### why grow green?

The Grow Green program is based on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles that encourage the LEAST TOXIC approach to pesticide and fertilizer use. The goal is to reduce the amount of landscape chemicals that degrade water quality when they run off into waterways or leach into our groundwater.

Grow Green is a partnership between the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department and Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Call 974-2550 or 854-9600 for more information or visit our website at www.growgreen.org.