

Green vegetable bug (098)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. Tropical, sub-tropical and temperate countries. On brassicas, capsicum, cucumber and other cucurbits, and legumes, including yard long beans. It is also a pest of tomato. Many other plants, including weeds.
- A stink bug (15 mm), when disturbed they smell! Nymphs back becoming spotted in rows, and increasingly green. Adults fully green.
- The bugs suck sap from flower buds, fruits and seeds of many vegetables, food legumes (yard-long beans), fruits (tomatoes), and weeds. The bugs are strong flyers.
- Natural enemies: few; possibly natural enemies.
- Cultural control: avoid planting near older infected crops; weed; use trap crops, e.g., rattle pod, *Crotalaria*.
- Chemical control: PDPs: derris, pyrethrum, chilli, possibly neem; alternatively, use synthetic pyrethroids, but these are likely to kill natural enemies (mostly ants).

Common Name

Green vegetable bug; green stink bug; green shield bug; southern green stink bug.

Scientific Name

Nezara viridula



Photo 1. Egg cases and first stage nymphs of the green vegetable bug, *Nezara viridula*.



Photo 2. Early nymph (probably 3rd instar), green vegetable bug, *Nezara viridula*.



Photo 3. Late stage nymph of the green vegetable bug, *Nezara viridula*.



Photo 4. Late stage nymph of the green vegetable bug, *Nezara viridula*.



Photo 5. Adult green vegetable bug, *Nezara viridula*. The bug is large, about 15 mm long.



Photo 6. Adult green vegetable bug, *Nizara viridula* on cucumber.

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Information from CABI (2017) *Nezara viridula* (green stick bug) Crop Protection Compendium (<https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/36282>); and *Nezara viridula* (Linnaeus) Entomology & Nematology, UF/IFAS, University of Florida. (http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/bean/southern_green_stink_bug.htm); and Waterhouse DF, Norris KR (1987) *Nezara viridula* (Linnaeus). *Biological Control Pacific Prospects*. Inkata Press; and *Nezara viridula*. Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nezara_viridula); and from Martin NA (2018) Green vegetable bug - *Nezara viridula*. (<https://nzacfactsheets.landcareresearch.co.nz/factsheet/InterestingInsects/Green-vegetable-bug---Nezara-viridula.html>). Photo 5 Cameron Prybol, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, The University of Georgia, USA.

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