

MASTER GARDENER INSECT COLLECTING

9/16/2013

CALLING ALL MG HUNTERS, GATHERERS, AND EAGLE EYES!!

PRESCOTT OFFICE

The Prescott insect collections (AKA Bug Boxes) need an extensive overhaul. Many of the specimens are over 25 years old, are missing body parts, and are not mounted in categories that are easy to create a theme around for such things as Farmers' Market Information tables. The current boxes are too large to easily transport. We also are missing many of the local common specimens of interest to those we serve.

We need volunteers to find fresh insect specimens to build a new user friendly resource. Our goal is to complete six sets of specimens with various themes. They will be available for Master Gardeners to use at fairs, markets, in classrooms, and at the Extension Helpdesk.

We have new "kill" jars, and pins to prepare specimens, and vials for those juicy fat caterpillars that are currently devastating many gardens. If you are interested in capturing, mounting, and /or identifying, we can use your help. Lists of needed specimens will be sent out periodically so you'll know what's out there at different times of the year.

We are meeting on Thursday afternoons, 1:00pm until 3:00pm, in the Prescott Extension office to work on this project. Please contact Mary Barnes or Linda Hochman if you'd like to volunteer for any of the following activities:

1. Identify insect specimens brought to the office.
2. Arrange mounted insect specimens in display boxes.
3. Develop information sheets and notebooks to accompany each specimen display box.
4. Kill, pin and mount live specimens that have been brought to the office
5. Collect, kill, pin and mount live specimens that you find.

Contact Linda Hochman if you have questions.

CAMP VERDE OFFICE

We have some good specimens, but if you find something unusual or interesting, please bring it to the office. Things like galls, egg casings, etc. that would be nice to have in the office to help with identification are also welcome. We have kill jars and pins available for your use. Contact Faun Vogel if you have questions.

Source of the Specimens

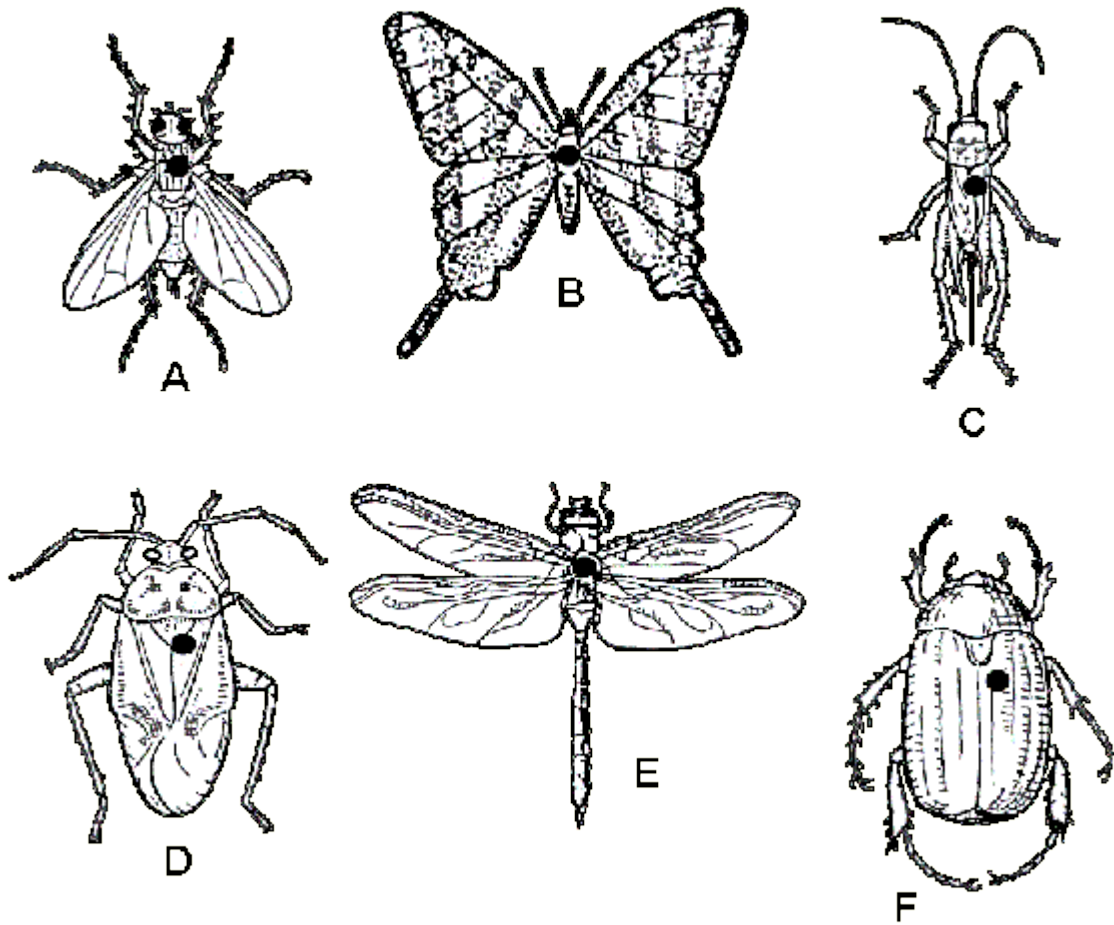
The specimens will come from you. You may find them in your yards, or they may be brought to the Extension Office for identification. Following is the list of Most Wanted and instructions for collecting.

MOST WANTED NOW LIST
for
Prescott Extension "Bug Boxes"
 9/13/2013

Caterpillars Grubs from garden or lawn	Put in jar and cover with isopropyl alcohol or hand sanitizer. They will die quickly (& probably happily) and will be well preserved.
Tomato horned worm	Bring it to the office live and it will be preserved in formaldehyde.
Butterflies Moths	<p>Easy Method:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare a collection jar with holes in the lid to allow the insect to breathe (a piece of screen attached to a jar with a rubber-band works well) 2. Collect the insect and some of the plant material it was eating (if possible) 3. Either refrigerate the specimen or keep it in a cool dry place until you can transport it to the Extension office (the sooner the better!) 4. Complete the attached identification form while the information is still fresh in your memory. NOTE: Use a separate jar for each specimen. 5. Contact Linda Hochman and let her know where the specimen is located in the office. <p>Collect, Kill, Pin Method</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check out up to three insect "kill" jars and about a dozen pins from the Prescott office (located in the cabinet in the first cubicle on the left as you enter the office) 2. Prepare the "kill" jar for use: Unscrew the inner cap. Place either a piece of paper towel or a cotton ball inside the inner chamber that has been moistened with the killing agent. Alcohol or acetone (fingernail polish remover) work well. Try not to over-saturate because it will seep into the jar and make removal of the specimen rather messy. The goal is to asphyxiate and not drown the specimen! 3. Once the specimen is dead remove it from the jar as soon as you can and place on a piece of Styrofoam. 4. Pin the specimen through the right side of the Thorax (the middle body segment). Try to go straight down so the specimen will stand upright. Push the pin into the Styrofoam so that the specimen is about ¾ of the way up the pin. Using tweezers and straight pins to hold them in place, arrange the legs, wings, and antennae so that they show. 5. Complete the identification form while the information is still fresh in your memory (separate form for each insect). 6. Store the specimen in a cool dry location away from direct sunlight. 7. Bring specimen & form to the office & notify Linda Hochman.
Any beetles (there is a wide array of blister beetles in our area)	
Wasps Bumble bees	
Praying mantis Dragon flies	
Grasshoppers	

Diagram of Pinning Locations

Note that the dot is a little to the right of center.



Correct location of pin for various insect body types:

- A. Flies and bees
- B. Butterflies and moths
- C. Grasshoppers and crickets
- D. True bugs
- E. Dragonflies and damselflies
- F. Beetles and weevils

INSECT IDENTIFICATION FORM

DATE COLLECTED _____

WHERE COLLECTED (town & environment, e.g. on a specific plant, in vegetable garden, etc.)

COLLECTED BY (MG or client if brought to the office) _____

ORDER _____ FAMILY _____

GENUS/species _____ COMMON NAME _____

COMMENTS _____

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