

Green Vegetable Bugs

Nezara viridula



Pic - GVB instars (life stages)

What they do

These bugs suck. In fact, all bugs suck, that's what their mouth parts are for. The adults pierce the fruit, making it unsightly and leaving hard, unpalatable bits in the flesh.

What to look for

These start out as tiny black bugs with dots and gradually change appearance until they are mature green vegetable bugs (GVB). Early in spring keep an eye out for tiny bugs in a group. They gather in rocket and tomato plants. Tomato plants that are fruiting will attract these bugs.

How to control them

Collecting by hand is easy. Hold a container of slightly soapy water under the bugs and shake the plant. The bugs will fall into the water. Check early in the season for infestations of these while they are small and not doing damage.

There is a parasitoid wasp that pierces the eggs, a tiny fly that lays eggs on the adult GVB, weakening them, and frogs will also devour them.



Pic - GVB laying eggs

[NZ GVB factsheet](#)

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/Green-Vegetable-Bug>
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