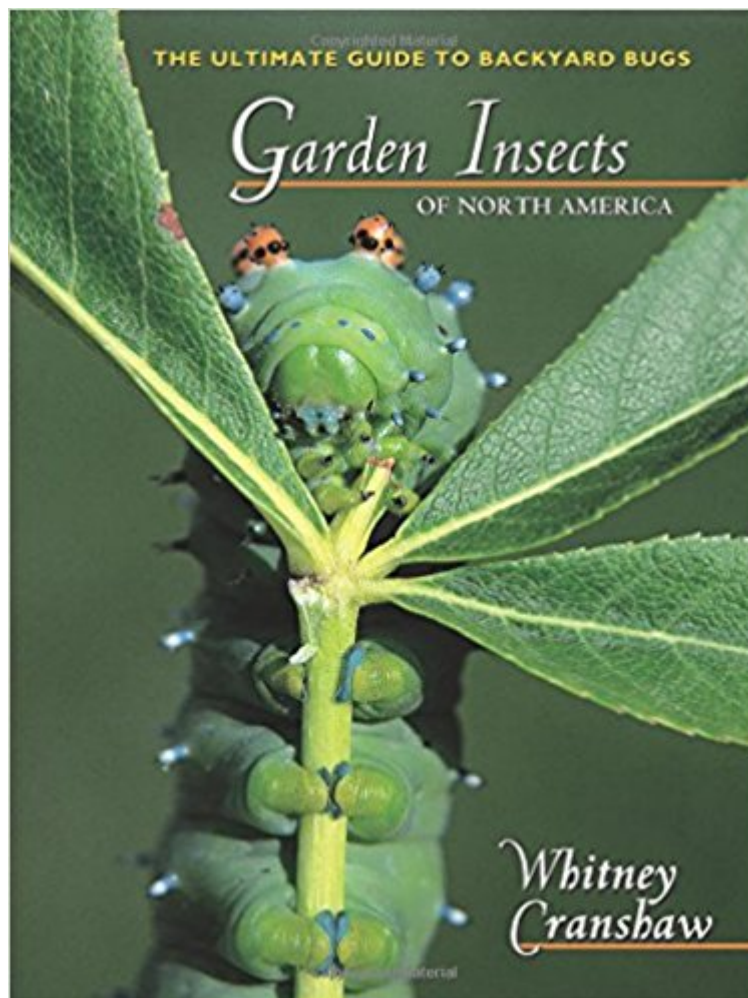




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Garden Insects Of North America: The Ultimate Guide To Backyard Bugs (Princeton Field Guides)



Synopsis

Garden Insects of North America is the most comprehensive and user-friendly guide to the common insects and mites affecting yard and garden plants in North America. In a manner no previous book has come close to achieving, through full-color photos and concise, clear, scientifically accurate text, it describes the vast majority of species associated with shade trees and shrubs, turfgrass, flowers and ornamental plants, vegetables, and fruits--1,420 of them, including crickets, katydids, fruit flies, mealybugs, moths, maggots, borers, aphids, ants, bees, and many, many more. For particularly abundant bugs adept at damaging garden plants, management tips are also included. Covering all of the continental United States and Canada, this is the definitive one-volume resource for amateur gardeners, insect lovers, and professional entomologists alike. To ease identification, the book is organized by plant area affected (e.g., foliage, flowers, stems) and within that, by taxa. Close to a third of the species are primarily leaf chewers, with about the same number of sap suckers. Multiple photos of various life stages and typical plant symptoms are included for key species. The text, on the facing page, provides basic information on host plants, characteristic damage caused to plants, distribution, life history, habits, and, where necessary, how to keep "pests" in check--in short, the essentials to better understanding, appreciating, and tolerating these creatures. Whether managing, studying, or simply observing insects, identification is the first step--and this book is the key. With it in hand, the marvelous microcosm right outside the house finally comes fully into view. Describes more than 1,400 species--twice as many as in any other field guide Full-color photos for most species--more than five times the number in most comparable guides Up-to-date pest management tips Organized by plant area affected and by taxa for easy identification Covers the continental United States and Canada Provides species level treatment of all insects and mites important to gardens Illustrates all life stages of key garden insects and commonly associated plant injuries Concise, clear, scientifically accurate text Comprehensive and user-friendly

Book Information

Series: Princeton Field Guides

Paperback: 672 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press; 1st edition (March 28, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691095612

ISBN-13: 978-0691095615

Product Dimensions: 1.8 x 7.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 127 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #28,394 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Insects & Spiders](#) #16 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Gardening](#) #16 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Reference](#)

Customer Reviews

Here's a sobering statistic: there are more than 100,000 species of insects and related garden pests in North America, and to gardeners it must often seem that the vast majority of them are eating, crawling, and flitting their way through treasured plants and flowers. Knowing what's doing the damage is more than half the battle in winning the pest-control war, and to that end Cranshaw has developed an impressive, encyclopedic guide to identifying everything from acorn weevils to zebra caterpillars. Understanding the way gardeners think, Cranshaw has logically organized the information according to the type of damage inflicted. The chapter on leaf chewers, for example, lists more than three-dozen likely insect culprits. Insect groups are then further characterized by host plant, range, appearance, and habits to precisely pinpoint the offending pest. Methods of controlling insect populations, in-depth discussions of beneficial insects, a comprehensive at-a-glance appendix of common plant-insect associations, and more than 1,400 color photos make this a marvel among insect identification manuals. Carol HaggasCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"An impressive, encyclopedic guide to identifying everything from acorn weevils to zebra caterpillars. Understanding the way gardeners think, Cranshaw has logically organized the information according to the type of damage inflicted. . . . Methods of controlling insect populations, in-depth discussions of beneficial insects, a comprehensive at-a-glance appendix of common plant-insect associations, and more than 1,400 color photos make this a marvel among insect identification manuals."--Booklist"Know thine enemy,' a time-worn caveat lifted from Sun-tzu's treatise, The Art of War, is sage advice for the organic gardener hoping to emerge victorious in the battle of the bugs. Acquiring such knowledge has just become easier with the release of Garden Insects of North America. . . . [Cranshaw] has packed his book with concise, organized information on all the common and not-so-common insect pests of turf, orchards and gardens in North America.

The overwhelming emphasis is on recognizing and categorizing the insects themselves, using appearance, type of destructive damage encountered and target food hosts as clues. . . . With detailed, high-quality photographic plates conveniently adjacent to the standardized insect descriptions, identification of suspected insect enemies is straightforward."--Jack Aldridge, San Francisco Chronicle

"An exceptionally well organized and complete text on garden insects. . . . Almost every insect is illustrated, with well over 1,000 full-color photographs showing them in various life cycle stages. Its very simple but complete explanations, diagrams and photographs make this the best reference I have read for diagnosing virtually all insect problems. It will make you the neighborhood entomologist."--Joel M. Lerner, The Washington Post

"If you've ever wondered what's eating your garden besides yourself and the woodchuck, this is the book for you. I know that sometime this summer I will carry a bug of some sort into the house to identify it in this volume. And I know that I'll lose at least an hour looking at photographs of all the other bugs that might lie hidden in the herbage."--Verlyn Klinkenborg, New York Times Book Review

"[Cranshaw is] an entomologist with perhaps a skewed affection for all kinds of bugs, but no one will argue with his desire to demystify insects and their world so that people understand better whether and how to react to a problem, and to enjoy this Lilliputian drama."--Adrian Higgins, The Washington Post

"An impressive garden reference that doubles as a field guide. Wherever you live in North America, your insects are included here. . . . The more than 1,400 color pictures of insects and their damage are truly impressive and will be invaluable in helping readers track down the culprits of their plant injury. . . . This wonderful reference will certainly become a classic. . . . Whether you are a professional or a home gardening enthusiast, this is an indispensable reference."--Jeffrey Hahn, The American Gardener

"Garden Insects is destined to become the new bible for horticulturalists and home gardeners alike. I've added it to the few books I keep close at hand while I am in the garden. Luckily, Garden Insects is also an exceptionally well-made paperback with water-resistant cover and 656 pages that fall open without cracking the spine and stay open without having to balance a rock on top. At \$29.95, it's a bargain."--Patricia Jonas, Plants and Garden News

"Insects are the most diverse and widely distributed life-forms on the planet. Gardens, and the diverse gardeners that tend them, are similarly widely distributed. Succinctly capturing this diversity, Cranshaw has constructed a lucid and well-illustrated text to allow gardeners to identify insects they encounter. . . . Breadth of synthesis, high quality, and effective formatting justify this work as a valuable addition to the popular literature."--Choice

"A must-have reference for any gardener."--San Francisco Chronicle

"Cranshaw has produced a wonderful guide whether the reader is interested in understanding, managing, or just observing these insects. Identification is the very first step in the

process of opening the door of appreciation, and this book is the key."--Biology Digest

The book is superb, but could be easier to use, so four stars rather than five. The photographs and other graphic elements are quite good, as one would expect from this excellent publisher. There are two problems in using the book. It is fairly large but the quality of paper makes it rather heavy, so the book cannot easily be taken out in the bean patch to identify who is nibbling there. Possibly a small wheel barrel would help. More seriously, finding your culprit takes some work. The easiest way would be to look for category of damage and then browse, using the chapters designated leaf eater, leaf miner and so on. Or, just skim through the pictures. It might be easier to get a cheap guide and make a preliminary identification then go to this book and look for detail. Photos are on the right handed page, descriptions on the left. The descriptions are not particularly compelling reading, but then you're not doing this for fun. They are brief, and include very brief descriptions of damage the bug does. There is a shorter section on beneficial insects, that is worth a look, but 80% of the book, or more, is garden gobblers, and that is a lot in a 600 page book.

"Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs" is simply a gem of a book. Illustrated with beautiful color photos, many by the author, this is the ultimate guide to every conceivable insect or other arthropod you might find in your backyard. It also tells you what to expect from each of these creatures (will it eat my rose bushes?) I first bought a copy for the Arthropod Museum library and then, after using the book for a few days, ordered my own copy. It is well written and authoritative (Whitney Cranshaw is a respected entomologist at Colorado State University) and very well illustrated. Color plates of stinkbugs, scale insects, aphids, beneficial insects etc. give the reader a fantastic overview of the variety of arthropods they can find around their own homes. The price is also very good (\$20.00 for a thick book with hundreds of color photos is remarkable today!) and I simply cannot see how anyone interested in gardening or backyard bug watching would not want a copy. Highly recommended for anyone with a reason to know anything about the numerous six and eight-legged creatures beyond their back door.

Every garden has insects and every gardener needs this book. It is human nature to just grab and spray without knowing what the problem is. Using the wrong product will not help and there are times when nothing more than a strong spray of water will solve your problem. Identifying the insect and knowing what to do can save enough money to justify what you spend on this book.

I really, really wanted to like this book. I am a dedicated organic gardener, and my method of pest control is a combination of encouraging beneficial insects and squashing things I find on my plants. Obviously, if I can't identify the things I find, I don't know if squashing would be helpful or harmful. But this book gives me very little assistance. It is divided into types of insects (e.g. leaf chewers, sap suckers, leaf miners, flower feeders), but from there you have to just start guessing and searching for pictures that match what you're seeing. If a section is 100+ pages, that's a lot of searching. You also have to hope that what you have found is in the same state of development as the picture in the book (larval vs. chrysalis, nymph vs. mature, etc.). I have spent many hours pouring through the pages and coming up empty handed. It is very frustrating, so I can't recommend the book.

The photos are wonderful! Color is great and there is often more than one photo of the insect. The information is good--have not read every word, but for those insects I've looked up it is helpful and appears correct. A bit big and heavy for carting around, but an excellent reference for on the desk or short jaunts into the yard. Insect coverage seems good--at least I have not found an insect in my garden (or my friends gardens) that I couldn't find in the book (and that's a lot of insects!). Would highly recommend it!

Book was not helpful with gardening like we had hoped. Only identifies the insects. No tips or anything else.

This book is excellent. It is the best book about insects that I have ever seen that was aimed at gardeners. It discusses the life cycles of each insect and pictures. There is also a section about control methods and one about beneficial insects. There is a listing too of insects that feed on particular plants, a very helpful feature. This is a large, heavy book, not one to carry around. I have found it useful on occasion to take a photo of an unknown insect to look up inside.

Nice book for being used, and wonderful pictures and descriptions which makes it very worthwhile.

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Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs (Princeton Field Guides)
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