

IF YOU HAVE GOLDENRAIN TREES, YOU PROBABLY HAVE JADERA BUGS

The scentless plant bug or Jadera bug has made itself known in the area once again. This colorful red and black nuisance insect is appearing in huge numbers in some yards. Really just an annoyance, Jadera bugs (considered true bugs just like stinkbugs) can form large colonies of thousands of individuals which may be very upsetting to homeowners. If their numbers were not intimidating enough, they also produce a red stain when squashed. An infestation of this bug is almost always linked to the presence of a Goldenrain tree on or near the premises.

The Jadera is a true bug with sucking piercing mouthparts, red and black coloration and about one-half inches in length as adults. The young or nymphs are even more colorful with a bright red body. These bugs often feed on plant seeds with some preference noted for Goldenrain tree seeds. Other hosts include bal-



Adult Jadera bug



Jadera bug colony



Goldenrain Tree

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loonvines, Ficus and Althaea species. The bugs will be found feeding on fallen seeds on the ground, but may also gather on surrounding plants and structures.

The scentless plant bug is found in the southeastern states west to Texas and California, several central states, and from Mexico, the West Indies, southward to Central America and Columbia; also Hawaii. This well traveled bug is also found in central and southern Florida. April and May can be peak months for this insect's population in our area.

As I mentioned earlier, Jadera bugs are more of

a nuisance than a true pest. Control attempts are often not necessary. Try raking up and eliminating the food source, the seeds of the Goldenrain tree. You could also control large infestations with insecticidal soap as per label directions. They are not a serious pest of any particular plant and of course, don't bite people or sting. They do stain, however, so watch your clothes! Otherwise, ignore them and enjoy this short-term natural phenomenon!

Resources:

- Mead, F.W. & Fasulo, T.R. (2005), *Scentless Plant Bugs, Jadera sp. Florida*. University of Florida, IFAS.
- Caldwell, D. (2009) *Jadera bugs? Must be Spring!* UF/IFAS Extension Service, Collier County. <http://collier.ifas.ufl.edu/CommHort/CommHortPubs/Jadera%20bug.pdf>.

Ralph Mitchell is the Extension Director/Horticulture Agent for Charlotte County UF/IFAS Extension Service. Ralph can be reached at 941.764.4344 or by email: Ralph.Mitchell@CharlotteFL.com.

For more information about our Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program, please contact our FYN Horticulture Program Assistant, Allison Turner, at 764.4351 or email Allison.Turner@CharlotteFL.com. Allison can help educate you about the FYN Program so you can create a beautiful, Florida-Friendly landscape that saves you time and money while conserving precious water resources and reducing pollution.

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RALPH MITCHELL
Extension Director/Horticulture Agent
Ralph.Mitchell@CharlotteFL.com

CHARLOTTE COUNTY UF/IFAS EXTENSION SERVICE
25550 Harbor View Road, Suite 3 - Port Charlotte, Florida 33980
941.764.4340 - 941.764.4343 (fax) - <http://charlotte.ifas.ufl.edu>

