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**Visual Reference Guide to Common Predators and Pests in Georgia Cotton**

**Special thanks to:**
Georgia Cotton Commission and Cotton Incorporated
Field Guide to Predators, Parasites and Pathogens Attacking Insect and Mite Pests of Cotton by Allen Knutson and John Ruberson

**Photos:**
Aphids (4387054), Mississippi State University, Bugwood.org
Assassin bug (5367967, 5367980), big-eyed bug nymph (1242039), big-eyed bug (5367925), brown stinkbug (1242026), fire ant closeup (5367982), spined soldier bug nymph (1242093), and tarnished plant bug (5367937), Russ Ottens, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Brown lacewing (5351009) and lacewing eggs (5490113), David Cappaert, Bugwood.org
Cobweb weaver (5526012), Sarah Jane Rose, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org
Corn earworm (1235128), Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org
Damsel bug nymph (5507033) and damsel bug (5507032), Phil Sloderbeck, Kansas State University, Bugwood.org
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Ground beetle (5210002) and lacewing larvae (1475047), Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org
Lady beetle larvae (1366008), Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org
Lady beetle (5526787), Jim Jasinski, Ohio State University Extension, Bugwood.org
Long-horned grasshopper (1225071), Edward L. Manigault, Clemson University
Rove beetle (5439120), Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org
Lynx spider (1576386), Gerald Holmes, California Polytechnic State University
Minute pirate bug nymph (5471119), Adam Sisson, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org
Rove beetle (5368120), Merle Shepard, Gerald R. Carner, and P.A.C Ooi, Insects and their Natural Enemies Associated with Vegetables and Soybean in Southeast Asia, Bugwood.org
Spined soldier bug (1472044), Frank French, Georgia Southern University, Bugwood.org
Southern green stink bug (4387037), Phillip Roberts, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org
Tiger beetle (5379921), Jessica Louque, Smithers Viscient, Bugwood.org
Thrips and pupating convergent lady beetle, Schmidt lab
Whitelines (1599599), John C. French Sr., Retired, Auburn University, University of Georgia, Clemson University, and University of Missouri, Bugwood.org

**Drawings:**
Spined soldier bug scale drawing by Clercq (2004), with permission from Springer

**Scouting for key pests and beneficials is critical for informed and cost effective management decisions.**

**Acknowledgments**

**Pests**

**Thrips**
Consistent early-season pest of seedling cotton

**Southern green stink bug**
Potentially serious late-season pest of cotton

**Whitefly**
Potentially serious mid- to late-season pest of cotton

**Corn earworm**
Pest of cotton bolls

**Brown stink bug**
Late-season pest of cotton bolls

**Tarnished plant bug**
Occasional mid- to late-season pest of cotton

**Aphid**
Potential early- to late-season pest of cotton

**PREDATOR**

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High presence in field
Medium presence in field
Low presence in field

Data partially from fields with cover crop residue. All predators can be observed and collected during the day.

**WHEN ARE PREDATORS LIKELY TO BE IN MY FIELD?**

**Extension.uga.edu**

Reviewed July 2022
Feed on: lepidopteran eggs and larvae, whiteflies, plant bugs and hoppers, aphids, thrips

These spiders are just a few examples of this diverse group of predators found in cotton.