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Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Thursday, Dec 20
Rain
High -- 54 Low -- 37

Friday, Dec 21
Cloudy
High -- 48 Low -- 36

Saturday, Dec 22
PM Rain
High -- 49 Low -- 40

Sunday, Dec 23
Rain
High -- 48 Low -- 42

Monday, Dec 24
Showers
High -- 47 Low -- 39

Tuesday, Dec 25
Showers
High -- 46 Low -- 37

Wednesday, Dec 26
PM Showers
High -- 45 Low -- 39

Following are the high & low temperatures, and rainfall recorded at The End of the Road in O'Brien by Cheryl Johnson:

Dec	High	Low	Rain
8	45.9	34.8	0.11
9	44.3	39.6	0.86
10	47.9	36.7	
11	49.8	37.5	0.39
12	43.4	33.8	0.01
13	36.6	33.0	
14	55.4	31.1	0.88

Dec. Rain: 2.90" YTD Rain: 13.02"

Crawlies with Cri:

by Christy Solo

Nothing says "festive holiday color" like a stink bug. Let's meet three species common to our area. The pictured true bugs are (left to right, top to bottom) *Banasa dimidiata* (no common name), red-shouldered stink bug (*Thyanta custator*) and green stink bug (*Chinavia hilaris*). Pictured is a fifth instar nymph of the latter species; the adults are solid green with blue eyes.

These three stink bugs aren't as pesty as people think, though they are all stinky if threatened. Only the green stink bug is considered a pest of note, and only to crops like soy, cotton, peaches and vegetables. Red-shouldered are considered "minor pests" of crops while *B. dimidiata* will dine on a few berries,

such as blackberries or chokecherries.

The green stink bug is the most common and odds are you still won't spot many of them over the summer months. This is partially because they have good camo skills, but largely because unlike, say, boxelder bugs, these three species of stink bugs just don't exist in massive numbers and don't cause noticeable damage to typical yard plants or trees.

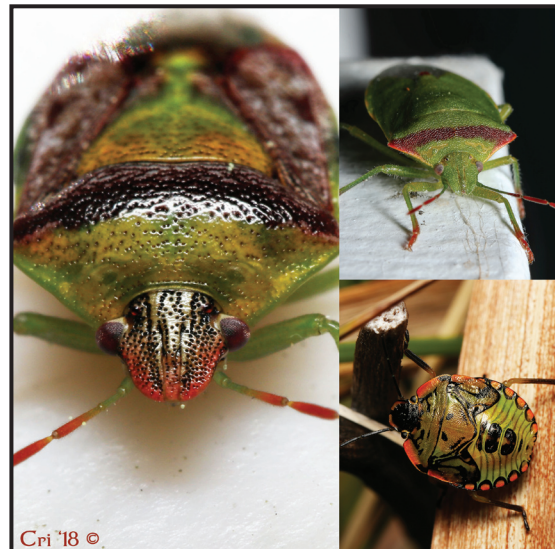
Because stink bugs' foods of choice are also foods which appeal to birds, nymphs and adults alike become bird food. We also have lots of *Platygastridae* wasps around and these teeny wasps specialize in parasitizing stink bug eggs. The wasps are so effective at this, they are now

being used for biological control of the invasive brown marmorated stink bug.

Pro tip: Don't crush a stink bug. When threatened or injured the stink bug will emit quite a bit of foul-smelling liquid from glands located under the thorax. The bugs' stink used to be added to acids to reinforce their "danger smell!"

Like all true bugs (*Hemiptera*), stink bugs can fly, though they spend most of their time hiding out. Of our featured three, you're most likely to find green and red-shouldered as they will come to porch lights at night.

Fun facts about our three featured bugs: The green shield bug's Latin name "hilaris" means "lively and cheerful" while *B. dimidiata*'s moniker



Green stink bug nymph (*Chinavia hilaris*)

comes from "dimidiata" which means "divided in half" referring to their green pronotum (part between head and body) which divides their red heads and bodies. The red-shouldered missed out on a fun Latin name, but got a perfectly descriptive common name. Well, sort of - red-shouldered can be highly variable. From the bright

green pictured to a dark blue-green and those that hibernate overwinter turn dull to dark brown to better blend in with a winter landscape. They don't even get to be holiday-colored during the holidays.

The dark wing bars and pristine white dots on their backs as well as their pale hindwings help you identify pulcherrima in either color.



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