

# Insect Eggs

Insects lay eggs singly, in small groups, or in large groups called rafts., depending upon species. After hatching, insects may disperse to feed alone or they may remain feeding together for a time. Eggs can take as little as days to hatch, as in many fly species or may hatch the next year, as with many types of aphids, some moths, mantids, grasshoppers and walking sticks.



*Zelus spp.* Assassin bug eggs



Stink bug eggs

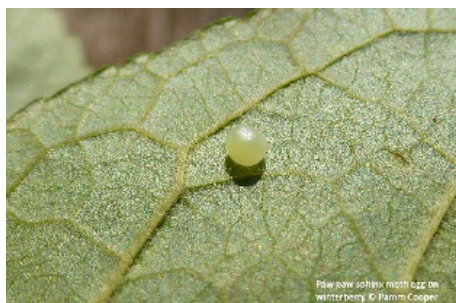


Orange striped oakworm moth laying a raft of eggs

If you find an insect pest laying eggs on your plants, you can crush the eggs to prevent future damage from the larvae and adults. Below, 3-lined potato bug and Colorado potato beetle laying eggs on nightshade plants like potato, tomato and eggplant.



**Below:** **left** is a single spherical egg of the paw paw sphinx moth on a winterberry leaf. **center-** question mark butterfly eggs are sometimes laid in small stacks. **right-** the beneficial green lacewing eggs are laid on long stalks usually on leaf undersides.



By Pamm Cooper