

Ambush Bug

Adults of the **ambush bug** (*Phymata americana*) move into hemp in late summer and establish near flowers. The ambush bug is a predator that hunts by ambush, waiting for a suitable passing insect – often a bee or a fly – that it then grasps with its forelegs and incapacitates with a paralyzing saliva that it injects.

It is unlikely that this insect reproduces within the hemp crop as the surviving stage between seasons are eggs laid as masses, usually on trees, shrubs and other perennial plants. Although predatory, ambush bugs likely feed rarely on insects that may be considered plant feeding pests of the hemp, instead consuming transient species that rest on the crop or visit for pollen.

Hemiptera: Reduviidae



Mating pair of ambush bugs.



Ambush bugs feeding on honey bee.