

Red-shouldered Stink Bug

The **red-shouldered stink bug** (*Thyanta custator*) is one of the larger and more conspicuous insects one might see on hemp plants, almost ½-inch in length with a broad body form. Most often they are pale green but there is considerable variation in color, with some having more brownish coloration. A faint red band often is present across the body in the area behind the head.

Red-shouldered stink bug feeds on many kinds of plants and can be common in wheat, beans and alfalfa. They feed with piercing-sucking mouthparts on young leaves, flowers and developing seed but appear to cause little injury; injuries this insect are reported to cause involve seed production. Migrations of adult insects into hemp may occur in midsummer as small grains and weedy hosts mature and the red-shouldered stink bugs will most always be noticed around buds and developing seeds.

Damage to hemp by red-shouldered bug is likely to be minimal to and limited to injury and potential abortion of some seeds. Eggs and nymphs have been found in hemp, suggesting that it may successfully reproduce on the crop, but populations are low and occur late in the season.

Hemiptera: Pentatomidae



Adults of the red-shouldered stink bug on hemp.



Egg mass of a red-shouldered stink bug.