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Texas Bug Book: The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly



Synopsis

Texas Bug Book is your complete guide for identifying and organically controlling all of the most common Texas insects. Drawing on years of practical experience and research, organic gardening experts Howard Garrett and Malcolm Beck give detailed instructions on how to identify, understand the life cycle of, and control or protect Texas insects, mites, snails, slugs, nematodes, and other critters. They also include striking color photos and black-and-white drawings to help you identify each bug. Garrett and Beck highlight the many useful roles that bugs play in nature and offer proven organic remedies for infestations of pest insects.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Texas Bug Book: "Definitive ... This book is a must-have for any organic library!" Texas Organic News "Overall this [book] is probably the best of its kind. Given the excellent photography and affordability, it is definitely worth the purchase." Whole Earth "Texas Bug Book, unlike many of the characters it describes, is a keeper--highly recommended as a perfect companion volume to set beside your native plant books." Native Plant Society of Texas News "If you plan on ever stepping outside, or staying inside, or going to bed, Texas Bug Book is a wealth of information you can't possibly live without." Austin American-Statesman "This book is recommended essentially to all humans above the age of three. It conveys a wonderful message about our ecology and hope for living within our environment." Choice

HOWARD GARRETT is a landscape architect, certified arborist, horticulturist, and organic practitioner in Dallas. He promotes his organic gardening program, The Natural Way, through his WBAP-820 AM radio show, weekly column in the Dallas Morning News, monthly Dirt magazine, natural organic Web site www.dirtdoctor.com, and regional and national speaking engagements. MALCOLM BECK, of San Antonio, is the founder of Garden-Ville Fertilizer Company. Winner of the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in 1997, he writes and speaks extensively on organic growing practices.

OK bug book. If you have a casual interest in bugs and want a book about Texas bugs for your coffee table, this would be great. If you're looking for an extensive categorized listing of bugs in Texas you'll be a bit disappointing though. There were a number of common insects missing from the listing, and all insects (from bees to flies to wasps to scorpions) are listed in one section alphabetically, forcing you to flip through the entirety of the book looking at every photo to try to identify one insect. Also, some listings were very generalized (i.e., scorpion is a listing. There are a ton of different types of scorpions out there, yet according to this book there are only "scorpions")

Its really hard to get me to invest \$30.00 in a book, when I do, its because I consider that book to be something extra-special. I spent months at the book store, reading little bits of this book and comparing it to other books on the subject. Finally I decided I couldn't live without this one and I bought it, and I am so glad I did. One of my original objections to the book was the seemingly average (at best) photos and the alphabetical organization of topics (as opposed to a system that organized listings by scientific class, i.e. all beetles listed together, all wasps listed together etc. etc..). I quickly overcame those objections as I used this friendly, sensible, book to help me identify insects in my Texas garden. Alphabetized listings are probably easier for many people, most of whom might not know the difference between a true bug and a beetle. I found the photos are adequate for identification purposes in most cases. What makes this Bug Book stand out in my opinion, are the author's personal stories included in the text. These recount experiences with and observations of many of the insects in the book, based on years of ranching, farming, and gardening in Texas. This is something you wont get in your standard field guide. The value of a lifetime of observations is priceless, especially when used to support the author's belief in natural pest control wherever possible. The other thing you wont get in a standard field guide are the recipes and resources for the more organic forms of pest control. All in all an excellent, easy to use, informative guide.

The contents of the book are fine, but the book itself is huge. It measures 8-1/2" x 11" x 5/8". I bought it because I thought it was something I could put in my pack. Search for a field guide if adding it to your pack is your intended purpose and inquire about the size of the book before purchase.

For those interested in organic gardening, this book is extremely helpful. I've used many tricks I've learned in this book to deal with various pests I come across...like slugs, ants, etc. This book is very thorough and for each type of pest, it gives you many many options for organic treatments. That way you can pick and choose what works best for your particular garden, what you have access to, etc. For me, this was a very worthwhile investment.

Love this book! I am forever seeing bugs that I have no clue what they are. Do they sting, are they beneficial or harmful? I don't know...but now that I have the Texas Bug Book I can easily identify most any bug I find. The bug information, which is accompanied by very good photographs, is direct and gets right to point. The little side stories of Malcolm, Howard, and others is quite interesting. They allow the reader to relate directly to the story which also helps with identification of bugs. A great book. Thanks so much!

As a recent transfer to Texas with an aversion to bugs, I refer to this book often to identify creepy crawlers I've seen around the property.

great book - photos give excellent description

Great resource for organic gardeners. I have already looked up several insect pests and beneficial insects, thanks to this text.

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