

Be on the Lookout for Cotton Seed Bug!

The Cotton Seed Bug (*Oxycarenus hyalinipennis*) is an important economic pest of cotton and ornamentals, with distribution in Africa, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, South America and the Caribbean. This invasive pest has been discovered in Riverside County, California (on ornamentals). While it has not yet been detected on cotton here, state and federal agencies are proactively monitoring cotton in Arizona and California for its presence.

Cotton Seed Bug poses a threat to the cotton industry, as it has the potential to reduce yield and lint quality. Adults move into cotton and congregate around bolls, feeding on seeds as soon as bolls open. Its eggs (first straw yellow, then pink) are laid in cotton boll lint close to the seed, or in seed pods of certain ornamental plants.

Growers and pest control advisors should be on the lookout for this pest, particularly as bolls begin to open. If you spot what you think may be Cotton Seed Bug or any potential invasive pest, please report your findings and share photos or specimens with Cooperative Extension personnel. We can work with Arizona Department of Agriculture and USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to confirm identity.



*Image courtesy of James D. Young, USDA-APHIS PPQ, bugwood.org, #5432248

Detailed information on Cotton Seed Bug, including photos and descriptions of all life stages is available on the following links:

USDA Technical Bulletin:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/meetings/docs/cpcb/CSB_TechnicalBulletinADA5-4-21_508.pdf

Pest Alert Bulletin:

<http://download.ceris.purdue.edu/file/3036>