

Pest Alert: Lablab bug

# Megacopta cribraria



**OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

## INTRODUCTION

*Megacopta cribraria* is known by several names: lablab bug (LLB), kudzu bug, and bean plataspid. A single LLB was found in Dayton, Oregon in August 2024. A search of the surrounding areas did not detect populations.

LLB is native to Asia and was first found in the US in 2009 in Georgia. It has become a significant pest of soybean. It is reported from 15 states: AL, DE, FL, GA, KY, MD, MO, NC, OK, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, and WV. It is not known from the western US.

LLB prefers kudzu and soybean, but it will likely attack any member of the bean Family (Fabaceae). Observed legume hosts include: azuki, broad, cluster, kidney, lablab, lima, mung, soy, string, urd, and velvet beans; black locust; pigeon pea; vetch; and wisteria. Non-legume reported hosts include: Chinese privet, corn, mulberry, potato, and wheat.



**Lablab bug.** Image by Rebekah D. Wallace, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

## HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

It is uncertain how far LLB adults may fly. LLB adults are good hitchhikers since they invade structures, which can include vehicles. This allows them to be transported long distances. Their eggs and nymphs can also be moved on plants.



**Lablab bug on house.** Image by Daniel R. Suiter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

## PREVENTION

LLB either arrived on infested plant material as eggs or nymphs or as a hitchhiker in a vehicle or cargo from the southeastern US. Check materials arriving from infested states for LLB.

## PEST STATUS

LLB is a potential pest of both commercial and backyard beans and other legumes. LLB was reported to cost \$5-7 million dollars in treatments in the southeast during each year 2021 to 2023. LLB is also a structural pest and will invade homes and other buildings in large numbers in the Fall.

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## IDENTIFICATION

LLB are 4 to 6mm long (or 1/6 to 1/4 inch). The adults are bulbous but have flattened sides. Their color is olive brown with dark spots but they appear brown. Nymphs are lighter brown and “fuzzy.”

They will most likely be noticed massing on plants or buildings.



Lablab bug adult.

## REFERENCES

Bugwood Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. 2022. Kudzu Bug.

<https://www.kudzubug.org/distribution-map/>

Poplin, A. and A. Hodges. 2012. The University of Florida Featured Creatures.

[https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/Creatures/field/bugs/bean\\_plataspid.htm](https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/Creatures/field/bugs/bean_plataspid.htm)

Crop Protection Network

<https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/publications/soybean-invertebrate-loss-estimates-from-the-united-states-2021>

## MORE INFORMATION

Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Insect Pest Prevention & Management Program  
26755 SW 95<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 101  
Wilsonville, OR 97070  
503.986.4636 | [Oregon.gov/ODA](http://Oregon.gov/ODA)



Nymphs

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**Main image:** Lablab bug feeding on soybean. Image by Phillip Roberts, U. of Georgia, Bugwood.org

**Upper right:** Lablab bug nymphs feeding on soybean. Image by John Ruberson, Kansas State U., Bugwood.org

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## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Notify ODA if you believe you have found LLB.

Take pictures or catch some in a container.

Make a report at the invasive species hotline:

<https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org> or call 1-866-INVADER.