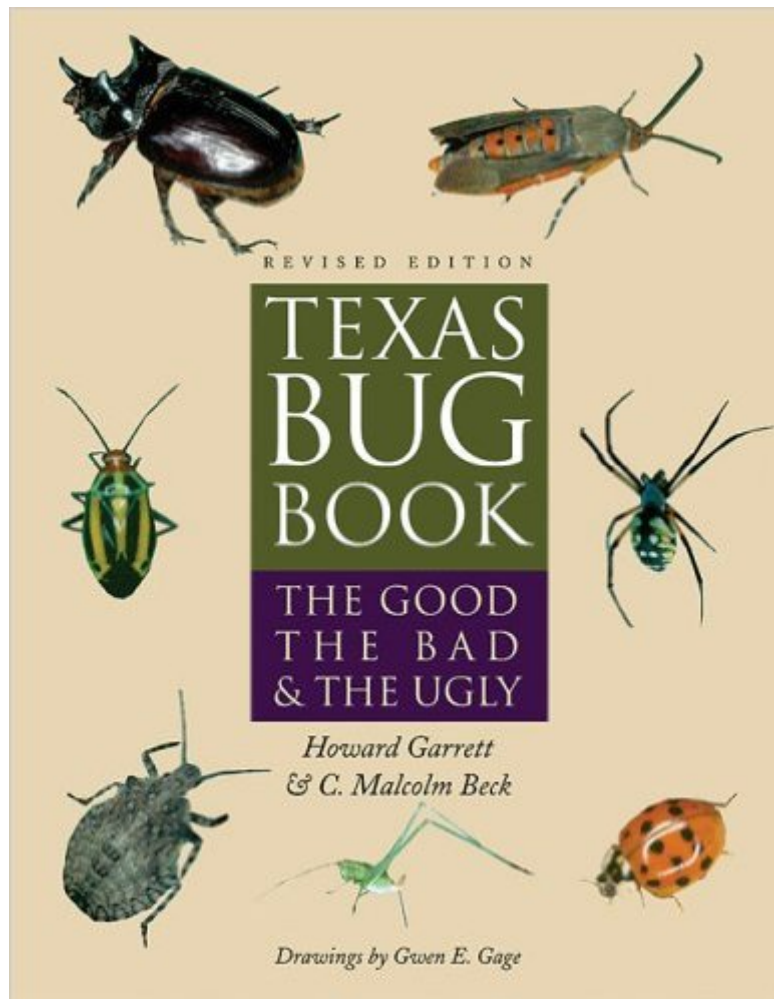


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# Texas Bug Book: The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly



## 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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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (55 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I'll start off first with the positive aspects of the book. It has a fairly approachable design, with a good amount of pictures, graphics, and text. In otherwords, you can pick it up and start flipping through it, or go right to a particular insect or topic. Another plus is that the authors appreciate and stress organic gardening and pest control principles. I'd give it 5 stars if that was all that was needed to make a great book. Unfortunately, some of the drawbacks of the book ruin the overall impression and useability. Perhaps the worst is the heavy use of personal notes from the authors ("A Howard Story", and "A Malcolm Story"). They constantly appear throughout the book, and get really annoying to constantly see. Although some are interesting and useful, the book would be greatly enhanced by removing at least half of them. In their place could be many more insect entries. For example, a bug that has caused big problems in my Texas garden is the melonworm

(caterpillar/larva of the *Diaphania hyalinata* moth). There's absolutely no mention of it. There are other interesting insects that I've come across that are also not included (spinybacked orbweaver, midges, etc.) By adding so much extraneous filler from the author's personal notes, they leave out many bugs that a person might want to identify. I've repeatedly tried going to the book first, but almost always have ended up searching online. That more or less defeats much of why a person would get this book in the first place. Another complaint is the inclusion of errors and poor grammar. For example, another caterpillar/moth that does damage to crops is the five-spotted hawk moth (tomato hornworm). But the picture they show is completely wrong (a Vine sphinx instead, which bears no resemblance).

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