Identifying Insects
Reference

**CMG GardenNotes**

#310 Identifying Insects: Reference and Study Questions
#311 Taxonomy of Arthropods (Insects and Insect Relatives)
#312 Insect Anatomy and Growth
#313 Insect Orders
#314 Key #1—Key to Insects Associated with Gardening
#315 Key #2—Key to Insect Orders
#316 Worksheet: Identifying Insects
#317 Homework: Identifying Insects
#318 Homework: Entomology

**Books**


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Learning Objectives

At the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

- Identify common insects to taxonomic orders.

Review Questions

1. Describe the identifying characteristics of the following orders:

   a. *Coleoptera* (beetles)
      1) Adults
      2) Typical *grubs*
      3) Some borer larva in trees

   b. *Diptera* (flies)
      1) Adults
      2) Larva: *maggot*

   c. *Hemiptera, Suborder Heteroptera*, (true bugs)

   d. *Hemiptera, suborder Homoptera*
      1) Aphids
      2) Scale

   e. *Hymenoptera* (bees, wasps, sawflies, etc.)
      1) Adults
      2) Sawfly larva

   f. *Lepidoptera*
      1) Adults (butterflies, moths)
      2) Larva: *caterpillars*

   g. *Orthoptera* (Grasshoppers, katydids, and crickets)

2. How do you quickly tell the following orders of insects apart?

   a. Caterpillars (*Lepidoptera* larva) from sawfly larva (*Hymenoptera*)
   b. *Diptera* adults (flies) from *Hymenoptera* adults (bees, sawflies, hornets etc.)
   c. Hemiptera, *Homoptera* suborder nymphs from *Heteroptera* suborder nymphs
   d. Hemiptera, *Homoptera* suborder adults and *Hemiptera* suborder adults
   e. *Beetles* (*Coleoptera*) from true bugs (*Hemiptera, suborder Heteroptera*), and cockroaches (*Blattaria*)

3. What orders and families have maggot or maggot-like larva?