

Jadera bugs? Must be Spring!



Jadera nymphs are bright red. The adults are about 1/2" long, black and have wings.



Golden-rain tree

The yellow flowers of the golden-rain tree soon turn to pink pods.

In mid-February through the end of March, the Extension office receives inquiries about swarms of red bugs. The first question we ask is, "Do you have a golden-rain tree, *Koelreuteria bipinnata*, nearby?" And they say, "How did you know that?" The Chinese golden-rain tree has a common insect visitor, the jadera bug, *Jadera haematoloma*. This insect resembles, to folks from up north (including me), its northern cousin, the boxelder bug. Like its northern relative, the jadera bug is a seed feeder. The jadera bug feeds on the seeds that have rolled onto the ground from the decorative brown flower pods on the tree. This sucking insect does not harm the tree and anyone that has dealt with the 1000's of seedling golden-rain trees beneath a parent tree, wonders, "Why aren't the jadera bugs doing a better job in destroying these tons of germinating seeds?" These are considered nuisance insects, especially when they invade your lanai in an effort to spend some time with you. Where they go to deposit their eggs and spend the summer after this early abundance seems a mystery. If swarmed by these red hoards, a Safer Soap spray solution should do them in.

See what the ornamental flowers of the golden-rain tree looks like, see: http://www.floridata.com/main_fr.cfm?state=ref_master&viewsrc=lists/typelist.cfm?PlantType=1

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