July 15, 2021

Megan Haywood

Cherokee County Extension

124 W. Country Rd

Columbus, KS 66713

Wheel Bugs

I have seen many post of this bug questioning what it is and how to get rid of it. The Wheel bug, also known as the "assassin bug" is highly beneficial to your vegetable and flower gardens. They are proficient at capturing and feeding on a wide variety of prey including other bugs, grasshoppers, flies, and caterpillars.

The wheel bug can and will bite if picked up and handled recklessly. The bite of the wheel bug is immediately and intensely painful. If you are bitten, you should wash and apply antiseptic to the site of the bite. Oral analgesics may be useful to reduce the pain. Typically, it is not necessary to be treated by a physician however, if you do experience a bad reaction or show signs of anaphylaxis, do seek medical attention. Control options are not recommended because assassin bugs are predatory insects, and beneficial for the garden. It is advised to leave them be and do not try and handle them. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call our office at 620-429-3849.

Source: [https://citybugs.tamu.edu/fact.../landscape/others/ent-1003/](https://citybugs.tamu.edu/factsheets/landscape/others/ent-1003/?fbclid=IwAR3v7rbQ84S1iPlUJYj_PJjg5y1jGrNvHZALdmMuc16PknnduJgZ02ASZfs)