

# Ready, Set, GROW!

Webinar Gardening Series

*Today:*

**"Gardening Gift Ideas"**

with The Ready, Set, Grow Team!



**BE BOLD.** Shape the Future.



# Ready, Set, GROW!

Webinar Gardening Series, Sept 2020 - March 2021

Hosts from NMSU Cooperative Extension



Marisa Thompson  
Urban Horticulture  
Specialist



Sara Moran  
Bernalillo County



Suzanne Cole  
Mora County



Lynda Garvin  
Valencia County



Amanda Skidmore  
Integrated Pest  
Management Specialist



John Garlich  
Bernalillo County



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# Marisa's Favorite Gardening Tools

- 1) Soil knife
- 2) Hooke 'n Crooke™  
(various sizes)

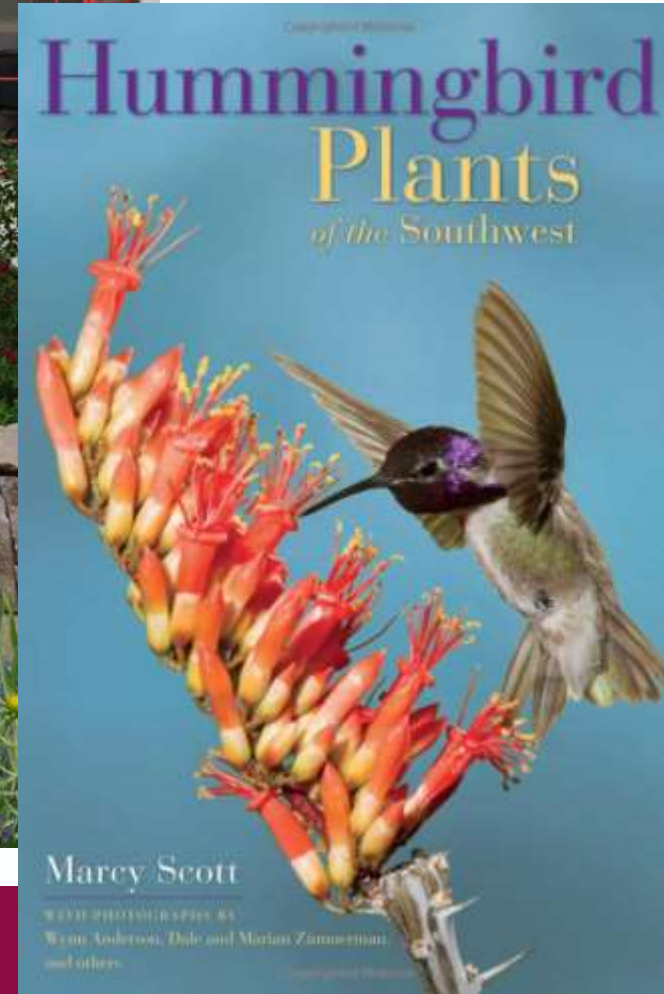
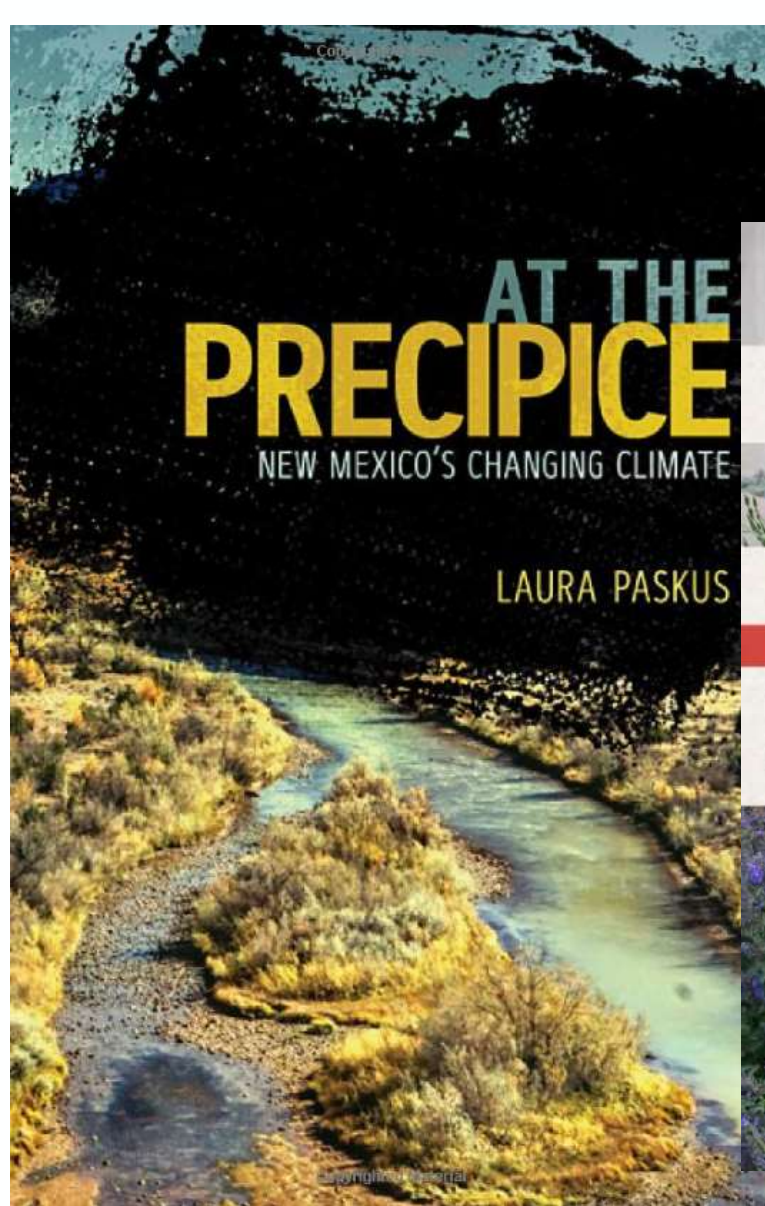


Marisa Thompson  
Urban Horticulture  
Specialist



# Southwest Yard & Garden - weekly column

<https://nmsudesertblooms.blogspot.com>  
**PLANT BOOKS GALORE**



Marisa Thompson  
Urban Horticulture  
Specialist



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# Garden to Bath Gift

- Handcrafted soap with Garden additives...
  - Melt and Pour Glycerin Soap
  - Skin safe color (optional)
  - Fragrance oil or Essential oil (optional)
  - Additives
    - Botanicals (calendula, rose, lavender flowers)
    - Skin loving oil (Olive, avocado, apricot, almond)
- Mold



Sara Moran  
Bernalillo County





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# Here they are...



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# Ready, Set, Grow!

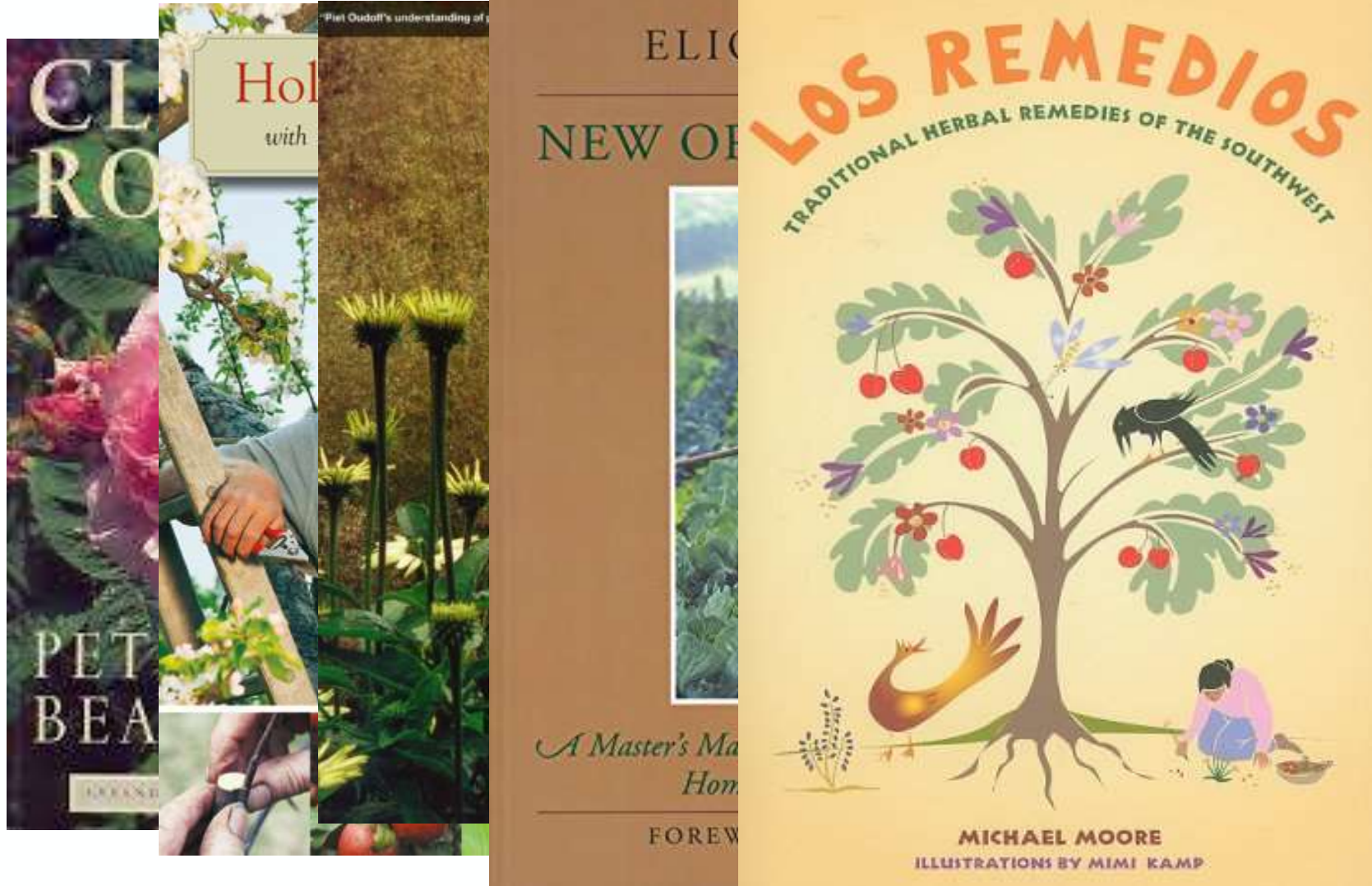


Suzanne Cole  
Mora County



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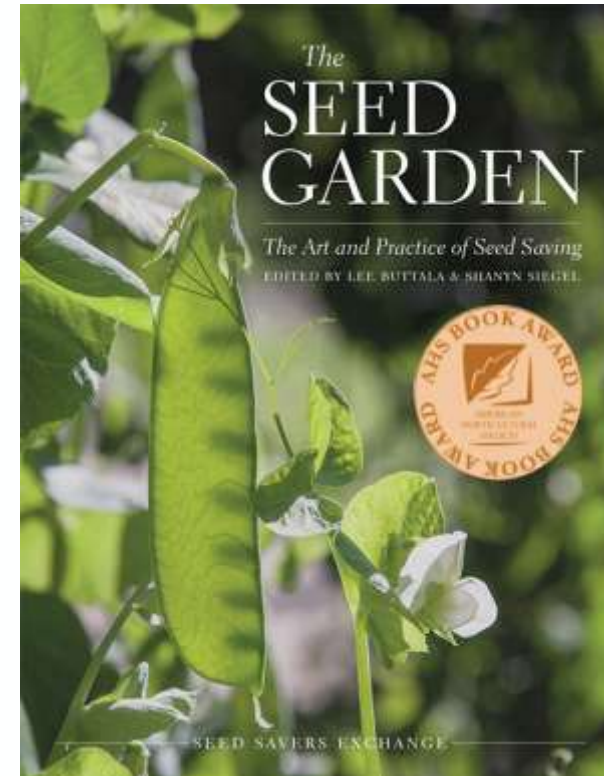
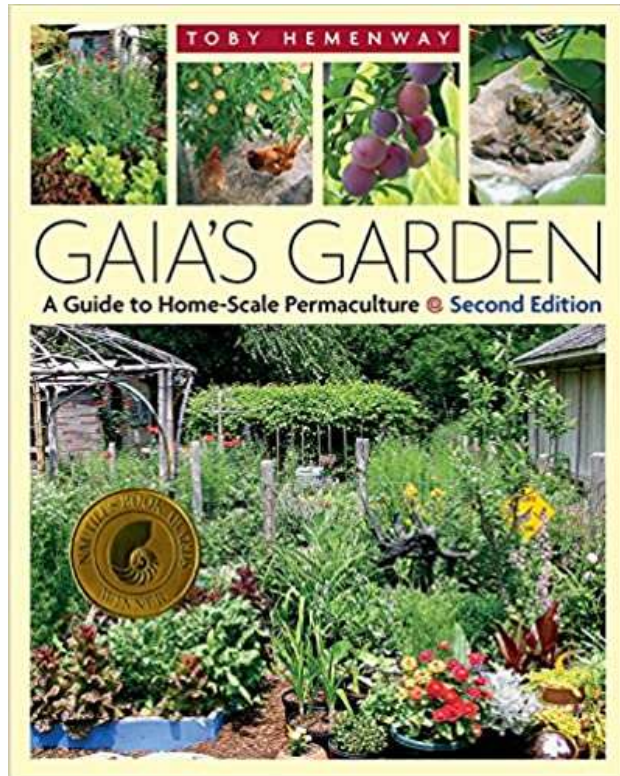
# Books



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# Knowledge is power



Lynda Garvin  
Valencia County



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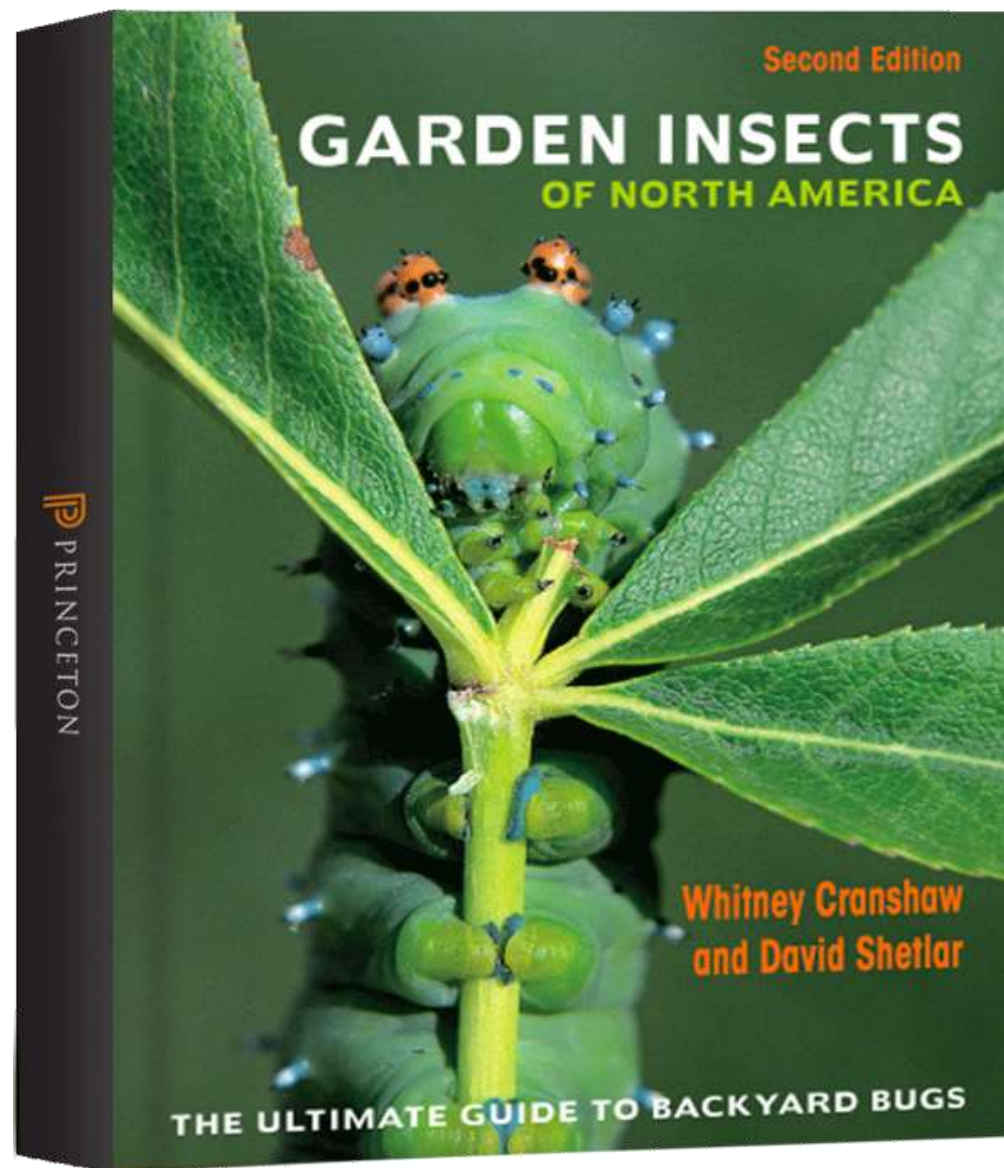
# Seed Spacing Tools





# Seed Spacing Tools





Amanda Skidmore  
Integrated Pest  
Management Specialist



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## SPITTLEBUGS

Spittlebugs are closely related to the leafhoppers but tend to be somewhat broader in form. They are similarly small, with adults typically about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch when full grown. What is uniquely characteristic, however, is the spittle mass the nymphs produce after they begin to feed. This is produced from excess excreted fluids (spittlebugs can suck fluids from the xylem), combined with mucilaginous fluids into which air bubbles are introduced. The function of the spittle mass is thought to protect the nymphs from predators and from drying. The great majority of spittlebugs are associated with woody plants, but some feed on herbaceous plants for part of their life cycle.

**MEADOW SPITTLEBUG** (*Philaenus spumarius*)<sup>1</sup> can be found on an extremely wide range of plants, including strawberry, various flowers, and legumes, both wild and cultivated. Little damage usually occurs from removal of sap by feeding, although some stunting of growth may occur. Significant damage to strawberry and alfalfa has been reported but is rare. The prominence and appearance of the spittle mass often attract attention and concern. It is present in much of the U.S., excluding southwestern areas, but most common in the Northeast and Pacific Northwest.

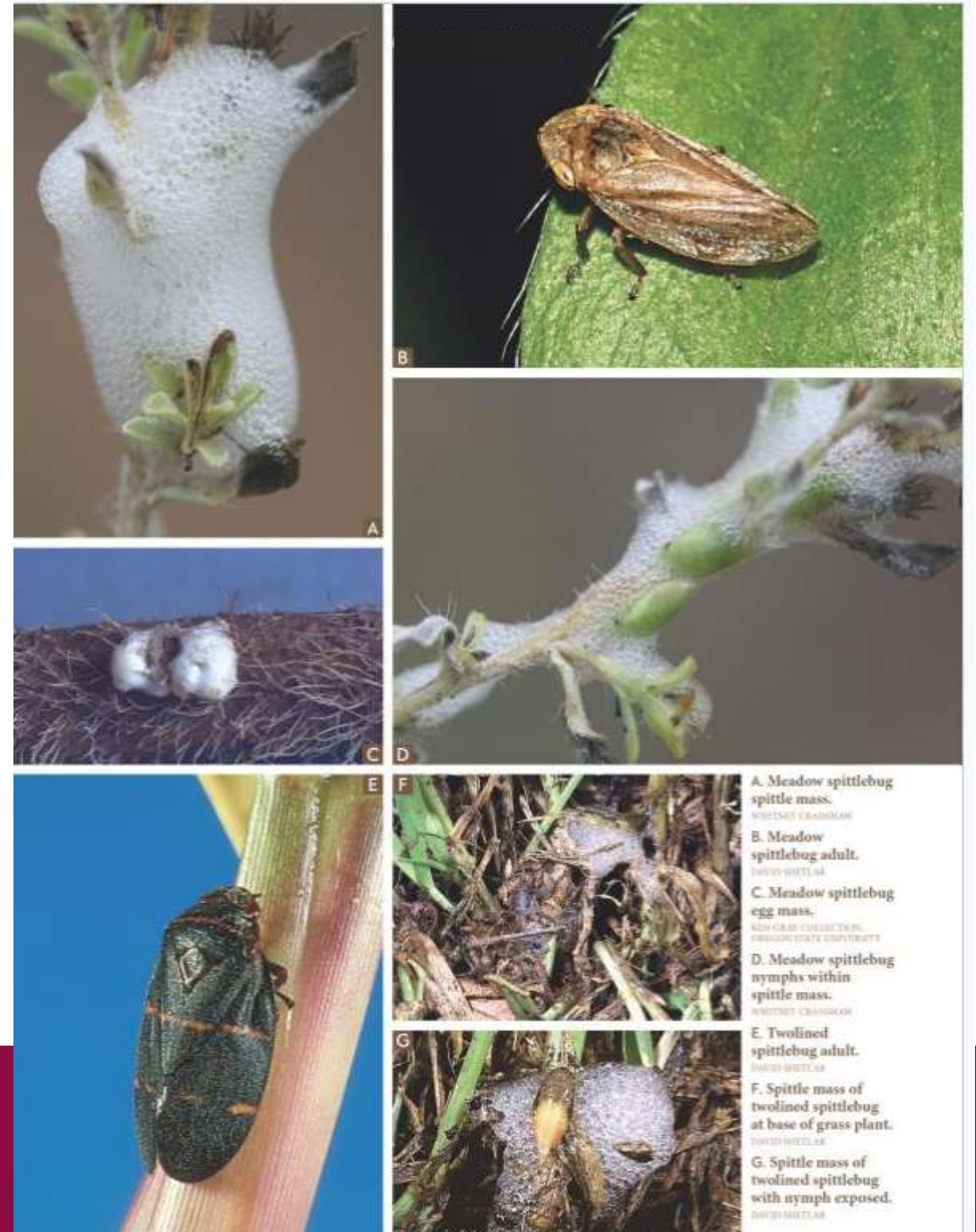
Adults are rarely observed but are about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long, straw-colored to dark brown. Nymphs are pale green and found in spittle masses. Eggs are laid in small masses among crevices of the host plants. Eggs hatch in spring, and the nymphs feed primarily on stems, quickly producing a large frothy spittle mass. They become full grown in late spring, and the winged adults disperse to feed on a wide variety of plants through the summer. Eggs are laid in fall, and one generation is produced per year.

**TWOLINED SPITTLEBUG** (*Prosapia bicincta*)<sup>2</sup> is associated primarily with warm-season grasses, particularly centipedegrass and bermudagrass. Adults also feed on holly and, much less commonly, redbud and cherry. It occurs in much of the eastern half of the U.S. and is particularly common in the southeastern states.

Nymphs and adults feed on grass blades, removing sap. More significant effects seem to result from toxic effects of saliva, which can cause leaf spotting and sometimes death of blades. Adults feeding on holly can produce leaf spotting and distortion.

The adults are broadly oval to wedge-shaped, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and generally dark brown or black. Most have red or orange lines across the wings, although these may be absent. Legs and eyes are red as well. Nymphs, which are found in a spittle mass in the crown of the plant, generally resemble adults but lack wings and are creamy yellow.

Winter is spent in the egg stage among grass plants, and egg hatch occurs in late spring. The nymphs settle at the base of plants and begin to feed, subsequently producing a spittle mass. They repeatedly molt as they develop, becoming full grown in about a month. Adults may feed on nearby woody plants, notably holly, as well as grasses. A second generation occurs in the southeastern U.S., one generation in more northern areas.



A. Meadow spittlebug spittle mass.

WENDY CRAMER

B. Meadow spittlebug adult.

DAVID HETTLER

C. Meadow spittlebug egg mass.

GEN GRAY COLLECTION, FRODO STATE UNIVERSITY

D. Meadow spittlebug nymphs within spittle mass.

WENDY CRAMER

E. Twolined spittlebug adult.

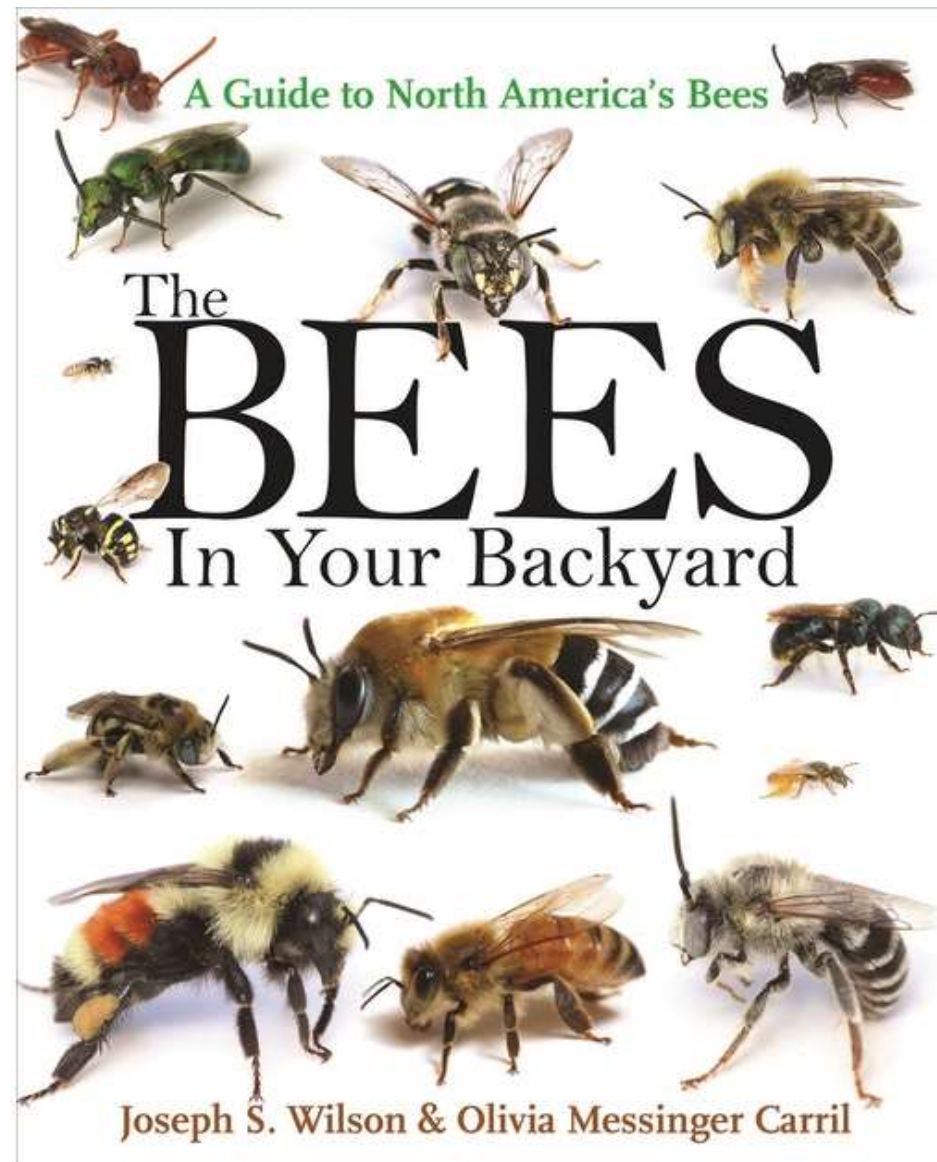
DAVID HETTLER

F. Spittle mass of twolined spittlebug at base of grass plant.

DAVID HETTLER

G. Spittle mass of twolined spittlebug with nymph exposed.

DAVID HETTLER





## KEY TO THE CHAPTERS OF THIS BOOK

A dichotomous key is a taxonomic "if-then" tool that scientists use to determine the species, or genus, or even family to which an organism belongs. Think of dichotomous keys as Choose-Your-Own-Adventure novels for the naturalist. Each couplet in a key consists of two options that can be answered with yes or no; typically the couplets are written out as two long descriptive sentences, but we have simplified the style in our key below. The nature of your answer, whether yes or no, determines the next couplet on your path to discovering an organism's identity.

While a key may seem intimidating at first, if you follow a few simple rules, it is manageable even for a beginner. First, always read all of a statement. Second, keep in mind that a sentence comprising several pieces usually lists those pieces with the most important and noticeable features first. Third, if you can't decide which

path to choose (yes or no), try following both to the next set of couplets and see if your uncertainty is cleared up. Finally, remember that none of these statements stands alone. The bees that belong with statement 5 have the characteristics mentioned in all statements that led to statement 5. Reading that a bee has a long tongue in one statement does not necessarily mean it is an Apidae, because Megachilidae also have long tongues but are split out early in the key.

This key requires a microscope, a hand lens, or several macrophotographs. A final note: some of these characters are on the tongue of the bee and may be hard to see. For a key to bee families, there is no way around this, unfortunately, except to learn the tribes, subfamilies, or genera of bees by sight, so that you can skip the family key entirely. Refer to section 1.8 for clarification on body parts.

1. Does the bee have pollen-collecting hairs on its abdomen or legs?

YES (it is a female) (A and B).....Go to statement 2

NO (it is a female parasitic bee, a *Hylaeus*, or it is male).....Go to statement 10

2. Are the pollen-collecting hairs on the underside of the abdomen?

YES (it is in the family **Megachilidae**) (B). You might also note that bees with pollen-collecting hairs on the underside of the abdomen have just two submarginal cells on their wings

.....Go to chapter 7

NO. These bees may have two or three submarginal cells on their wings.....Go to statement 3

3. Are there two grooves (subantennal sutures) on the face, under each antennal socket, running all the way to the top of the clypeus (C)?

YES (it is in the family **Andrenidae**) Note that there are a few *Andrenidae* in the *Panurginae* subfamily that have only one subantennal suture; see chapter 3 identification tips for more information. ....Go to chapter 3

NO.....Go to statement 4

4. Is the tongue long, with the first two sections of the labial palp elongated?

YES (it is in the family **Apidae**) (D).....Go to chapter 8



(A) Scapal hairs on a female Eucled leg.



(B) Scapal hairs on a female Megachile abdomen.



(C) A species of *Perilla*, showing the two subantennal sutures beneath each antennal socket. All *Andrenidae* have two subantennal sutures. Photo courtesy of USDA-ARS Bee Biology and Systematics Laboratory.



(D) A long tongue, showing two long labial palps (numbered 1 and 2), and two short palps (3 and 4). Photo courtesy of USDA-ARS Bee Biology and Systematics Laboratory.

## Region 6 (Southwest Deserts)

Flower color	Scientific name	Common name	Family	Habit
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
	<i>Salix</i>	Willow	Salicaceae (Willows)	S/T
	<i>Layia</i>	Tidy tips	Asteraceae (Sunflowers)	H
<b>MARCH</b>				
	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	Papaveraceae (Poppies)	H
	<i>Nemophila</i>	Ninespot, Baby blue eyes	Baraginaceae (Forget-me-nots)	H
	<i>Amorpha</i>	Fiddleneck	Baraginaceae (Forget-me-nots)	H
<b>APRIL</b>				
	<i>Collinsia heterophylla</i>	Chinese houses	Plantaginaceae (Plantains)	H
	<i>Robinia neomexicana</i>	Locust	Fabaceae (Peas)	S/T
	<i>Ferocactus</i>	Barrel cactus	Cactaceae (Cactuses)	S
	<i>Sphaeralcea</i>	Globe mallow	Malvaceae (Mallows)	H/S
	<i>Lupinus</i>	Lupine	Fabaceae (Peas)	S
	<i>Penstemon</i>	Beardtongue	Plantaginaceae (Plantains)	H
<b>MAY</b>				
	<i>Malacothamnus</i>	Bush mallow	Malvaceae (Mallows)	S
	<i>Eriogonum</i>	Buckwheat	Polygonaceae (Buckwheats)	S
	<i>Opuntia</i>	Prickly pear	Cactaceae (Cactuses)	S
<b>JUNE</b>				
	<i>Helianthus</i>	Sunflower	Asteraceae (Sunflowers)	H
	<i>Cleome</i>	Bee plant	Cleomaceae (Bee plants)	H
	<i>Asclepias</i>	Milkweed	Apocynaceae (Dogbanes)	H
	<i>Gallardia</i>	Blanket flower	Asteraceae (Sunflowers)	H
<b>JULY</b>				
	<i>Eligeron</i>	Heabane	Asteraceae (Sunflowers)	H
	<i>Solidago</i>	Goldenrod	Asteraceae (Sunflowers)	S
	<i>Hemizonia</i>	Tarweed	Asteraceae (Sunflowers)	H
	<i>Symphyotrichum</i> and <i>Aster</i>	Aster	Asteraceae (Sunflowers)	H
<b>AUGUST</b>				
	<i>Chrysothamnus</i>	Rabbitbrush	Asteraceae (Sunflowers)	S



A variety of flowering plants create a beautiful garden and also attract equally beautiful bees, like this *Agapostemon* on blanket flower (*Gallardia*).



## How It Works



Record your observations

Share with fellow naturalists

Discuss your findings



the Future.



## Lady Bugs



### Pro Tip:

If you purchase adults  
spray with sugar water to  
temporarily “glue” wings



$\frac{1}{2}$  Water,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sugar



Future.

Scuffle Hoe



Mobile Garden Stool



Forearm Gloves



Tool Bucket



Soil Knife





# Crafting Project

- Wire hanger or form
- Plant cuttings – evergreen foliage, seed pods, colorful twigs, etc...
- Floral wire
- Bypass pruners, wire cutters, or scissors
- Ribbon (optional)
- Deco items of choice (optional)
- Line or wire to hang

John Garlich  
Bernalillo County



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**1,000+  
viewers to  
date!!!**



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# Ready, Set, GROW!

Webinar Gardening Series, Sept – March

**Upcoming!**

December 16 at 3:00 pm

## **"Hybrid Grapes, Hardwood Cuttings, and Holiday Wine Pairings for New Mexico"**

with Viticulturist Gill Giese

- **January 6** "Houseplant Care" with John Garlich
- **January 20** "Health Benefits of Gardening" with Suzanne Cole
- ...and more!

EXTRA!

**December 17, 2020 at 3:00 PM**

Honey Bees from the Midwest to the Southwest



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