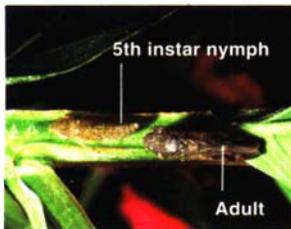


# How to distinguish glassy-winged sharpshooter from its “look-a-likes”

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An intense search is under way in many areas to prevent the introduction of glassy-winged sharpshooter, a nonnative invasive insect linked to the spread of *Xylella fastidiosa*, the bacterium that causes Pierce’s disease. Since many people have not seen the glassy-winged sharpshooter, it can be confused with other insects occurring in vineyards and backyards (“look-a-likes”). The following photos and descriptions are useful tools in correctly identifying this pest.



## Adult glassy-winged sharpshooter

- Approximately 1/2 inch (11 to 13 mm) long.
- Dark brown to black in color with an ivory underside.
- Top of the head has small, ivory-to-yellowish spots.
- Body shape is parallel-sided with a pointed head.
- Wings are partly transparent with reddish veins.
- Wings are folded flat over the body.
- Length of hind tibia has two rows of small spines (fig. 1).
- While resting, they shift their bodies from side to side (inspiring the name “sharpshooters”).

## Nymphal stages

- Glassy-winged sharpshooter has five nymphal (immature) stages.
- Nymphal length ranges from 1/16 inch (2 mm) long for the first stage up to 3/8 inch (9 mm) for fifth stage.
- Nymphs are olive-gray with prominent reddish eyes.
- Immatures are wingless and have softer bodies.
- Immatures have piercing/sucking mouthparts and a bulging face.

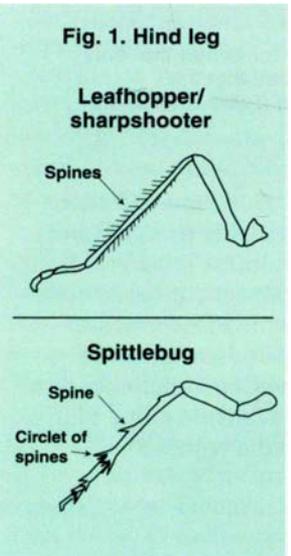
## Glassy-winged sharpshooter mouthparts

- Muscles that operate the feeding pump give the face a swollen appearance
- Piercing/sucking mouthparts

Photo by Phil A. Phillips



Look-a-likes	Similar characteristics	Distinguishing characteristics
 <p>Cicada adult</p>	<p>Clear membranous wings Piercing, sucking mouthparts</p>	<p>Wings folded at an angle, forming a roof or tent over the body Larger in size, 1 to 2 inches long Well-developed first pair of legs (expanded front tibia)</p>
 <p>Spittlebug adult</p>	<p>Some have similar coloration, variable from brownish yellow to rusty brown Some approximately same size or slightly smaller Piercing, sucking mouthparts</p>	<p>Body shape broader midbody (frog shaped) tapering toward the front and the end (not parallel-sided) Hind tibia with a circling of spines at apex (fig.1)</p>
 <p>Click beetle adult</p>	<p>Brown coloration Elongate-narrow body May attain length of 1/2 inch (13 mm)</p>	<p>Front wings hard and opaque Chewing-type mouthparts (mandibulate) Posterior corners of the thorax (trunk) prolonged backward into sharp points</p>
 <p>Branch and twig borer adult</p>	<p>Dark brown coloration Cylindrical in shape Approximately same size, 3/8 to 3/5 inch (8 to 16 mm)</p>	<p>Front wings are hard and opaque Chewing-type mouthparts (mandibulate) Thorax wider near the head than at its base</p>



Photos by Jack Kelly Clark except where noted.