



Western Conifer Seed or Leaf Footed Bug
Leptoglossaus occidentalis



Every year in the late summer/early fall the Western Conifer Seed Bug searches for a protected site inside buildings and homes to escape the cold weather and over winter until spring. They do not re produce or feed inside the structure, instead they live off their stored fat resources. They do not bite or sting but will give off a pungent odor when in danger or handled roughly. This defense mechanism is designed to ward off predators.

They are $\frac{3}{4}$ " in length dull brown in color with a faint white zig zag stripe across the back. Piercing sucking mouthparts are used to pierce the scales of conifer seeds and siphon out the pulp. The host plants include Eastern White Pine, Red Pine, Scotch Pine, White Spruce, Douglas Fir and Hemlock.

The key to managing these bugs is exclusion. They should be "built out" by sealing gaps around windows frames, doors and soffits. Attic vents and chimneys should also be properly screened. A vacuum can be used to remove large numbers from inside. Be careful not to crush them or handle them roughly as they will omit a pungent odor.

Please contact us to find out about our exclusion and repelling methods.