Lovebugs

Today on Gardening in a Minute: lovebugs.

The slow-moving lovebug is a familiar spring and fall sight to most people in the South. These small black-and-red insects swarm roads and coat cars, usually attached to a mate.

Lovebugs migrated from Central America within the last century. They’re attracted to exhaust fumes, so they hover over roads and get splattered on your car’s windshield and grill during May and September. Lovebugs like hot temperatures and are only active during the day.

The acid in lovebugs’ bodies can harm your car’s paint, so wash them off as soon as possible to prevent damage to the finish. A hood air deflector or screen may be of help.

Unfortunately, there’s no way to get rid of lovebugs, so don’t let them ruin your day!

For more information about lovebugs and many other gardening topics, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.