

# Green Shield bug

## Habitat Hero

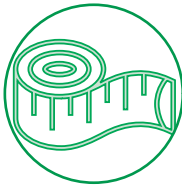


**Common Name:** Green Shield Bug  
**Irish Name:** Fríd scéithe ghlas  
**Scientific Name:** Palomena prasina

**Seen in Ireland:**  
Late Spring to Autumn



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)



Adult Green Shield bugs grow to about 12 – 13.5 mm .



Green shield bugs are widespread throughout Ireland and are commonly found in hedgerows, on trees and in gardens. They can be difficult to spot as they are very well camouflaged on most of the leaves they stop to eat on.

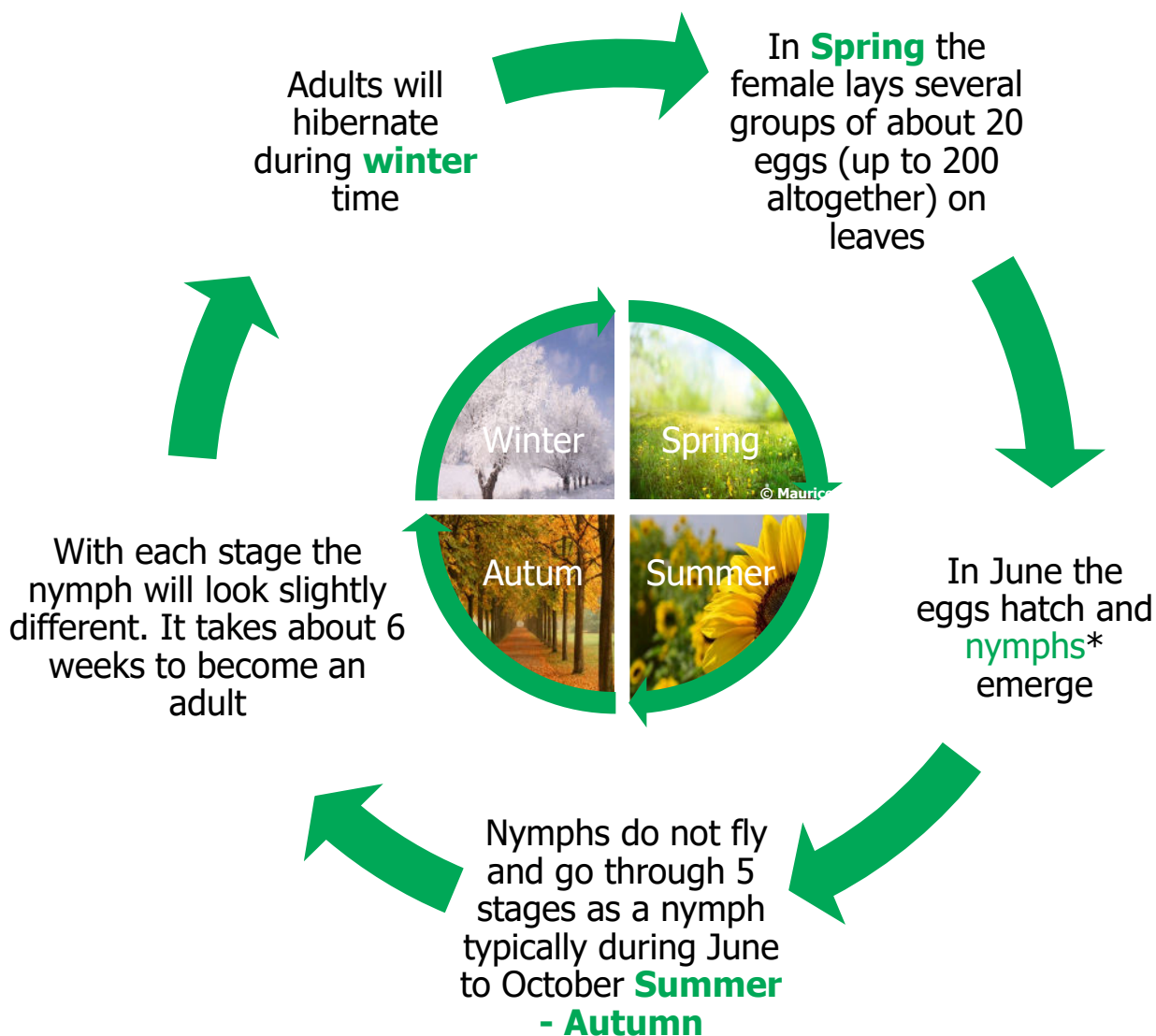


Green Shield Bugs are herbivores. They eat a variety of plant sap and leaves of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. They have mouth parts specially adapted to their feeding habits.



The Green Shield Bug will generally live about 1 year.

# Green Shield bug Life Cycle



\***Nymphs** are the name given to shield bugs (and some other insects) just after they hatch from their eggs. Unlike many other insects, nymphs look similar to adults and will go through a process of moulting as they grow. Other insects such as butterflies hatch as a completely different looking larva (caterpillar) and then go through a complete metamorphosis.

# Green Shield bug

## Some more Facts:

- Green shield bugs look just like their name suggests! Like a Green Shield. Their back is the shape of a shield. They are bright green all over with a dark triangular patch where their wings overlap.
- They become darker in autumn and winter. They have a pair of long segmented antennae which are red and black at the tips. They have 6 legs.
- The green shield bug is just one of many members of the shield bug family.
- There are about 15 different species in Ireland with various colours and sizes.
- When adults emerge from hibernation they will find a mate by March-April
- The female lays eggs which are barrel shaped and hidden under leaves
- New adults appear in late summer. Adults may darken in colour in autumn/winter. They hibernate in leaf piles and other sheltered places
- Green shield bugs have a variety of predators including birds, frogs and other insects.
- They have two main lines of defence. Excellent camouflage and the ability to emit a bad smell!
- Shield bugs are often known by their nickname "stink bug". They will leave their scent behind on the vegetation they were crawling on.
- Did you know that green shield bugs are not part of the beetle family although they look similar. They are actually "True Bugs".

