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# SUNNYSIDE THYMES

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## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

SMG Education Committee—Colleen Craven-Becker

There's a unique and interesting garden visitor that is easily overlooked. Among the many creatures that rely on color, texture and stealth for camouflage, the camouflaged looper is a master of disguise. It adorns its body with bits of plant parts, essentially becoming the plant that it is feeding on.

Detection can be tricky since it looks like the plant it is feeding on. Feeding primarily on flower petals, watch for movement or “shaking” of the plant's flowers and petals. Once detected, control is simple. Merely pull or clip them off the plant and squish them or put them in a container of soapy water. Prune off and get rid of infested buds or flower heads.

The camouflaged looper is known to feed on a wide range of host plants including many composites such as ageratum, aster, black-eyed Susan, boneset, goldenrod, ragweed, and yarrow.

The adult is the wavy-lined emerald moth. It inhabits woodlands, forest edges, abandoned fields, and prairies. The adult moth is also a master of camouflage. When resting on light green foliage, they seem to disappear before your eyes. Like many well camouflaged moths, emeralds will choose an appropriate

background on which to land increasing the effectiveness of their cryptic coloration.



*Looper feeding on ageratum.*



*Camouflaged Looper adult –  
Wavy-lined Emerald Moth*

If you are interested in seeing this guy in action, there is a video on You Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2euEP-INNCK>.