

# BUGS THAT RULE THE WORLD SET TO PREMIERE WEDNESDAYS, MAY 7-28, 2025 ON PBS

New Four-Part Series Takes Viewers Inside the Mysterious World of Bugs  
and the Critical Role They Play in Our Survival



*Caption: BUGS THAT RULE THE WORLD key art  
Credit: Tai Inoue / PBS*

## [Series Promo](#)

ARLINGTON, VA, April 17, 2025 – PBS announced today a new four-part series revealing the unseen and rapidly changing lives of insects, and how these tiny creatures play a big role in our continued existence on earth. Captured in stunning macro cinematography, the series reveals the color, complex body plans and surprisingly charming lives of these tiny earthlings in otherworldly detail, from intricate mating rituals to staggering physical transformations straight out of science fiction. **BUGS THAT RULE THE WORLD** premieres Wednesdays, May 7-28, 10:00 – 11:00 p.m. ET on PBS ([check local listings](#)), on PBS.org and the PBS app.

Prepare to journey into the world of insects, the planet's most populous but least appreciated creatures. From pollinators like moths, bees and butterflies that bring color to the field and food to our plates, to the clean-up crews that work the land and purify the soil, insects have been running the world since before the time of the dinosaurs. However, new investigations reveal that even in some of the planet's most remote corners, our long history of dependence on insects may now be on the verge of

collapse, and a worldwide insect “apocalypse” is highlighting the critical roles bugs play on the planet and the bleak picture of a future without them.

Episode air dates and descriptions are provided below (check local listings).

### **Episode One " Insect Apocalypse"**

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET

Scientists and enthusiasts investigate the global insect "apocalypse," revealing the crucial roles bugs play on our planet and the bleak picture future without them.

### **Episode Two "Lifegivers"**

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET

Dive into the colorful world of Earth’s essential pollinators – bees, moths, and butterflies. Scientists and enthusiasts discuss life without these resilient creatures, whose impact goes far beyond their delicate appearance.

### **Episode Three "Eat or Be Eaten"**

Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET

Uncover the ruthless realm of some of the stealthiest insects in the animal kingdom. From praying mantises and aquatic insects to dragonflies, nature has equipped these creatures with intelligence, agility, and necessary hunting skills for survival.

### **Episode Four "Beetle Mania"**

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 10:00-11:00 p.m. ET

As the world’s most diverse and abundant species, the tiny yet mighty beetle plays crucial ecological roles in nearly every environment. Why are these colorful and ingenious creatures often regarded as “the most important species on the planet”?

**BUGS THAT RULE THE WORLD** will stream simultaneously with broadcast and will be available on all station-branded PBS platforms including [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org), and the [PBS App](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast, and VIZIO.

**BUGS THAT RULE THE WORLD** is a co-production of Coneflower Studios, Blue Ant Media and ARTE France, in association with PBS. © 2024 Coneflower Studios and Blue Ant Media. All Rights Reserved. The series is written by Doug Shultz and produced by Ann Prum, Doug Shultz, and Nosarieme Garrick. Narrated by Nkeki Obi-Melekwe. Diana El-Osta is the executive in charge for PBS.

### **About Coneflower Studios**

[Coneflower Studios](#) is an Emmy Award-winning, female-led production company with over 30 years of experience crafting non-fiction films that explore the wonders of science, wildlife, and the environment. Founded by director and cinematographer Ann Johnson Prum—named one of *Forces of Nature*’s “Five Women Redefining Nature Documentaries”—Coneflower Studios is a mission-driven company committed to storytelling with purpose. Renowned for its breathtaking cinematography, Coneflower Studios combines stunning visual imagery with deep scientific insight and emotionally resonant narratives. From intimate portraits of wildlife to sweeping environmental epics, the studio’s films captivate and inform, inspiring audiences to see the natural world with fresh eyes and a deeper sense of connection.

### **About PBS**

[PBS](#), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 36 million adults on linear primetime television, more than 16 million users on PBS-owned streaming platforms, 53 million viewers on YouTube, and 60 million people view PBS content on social media, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs and to take front-row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS’s broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry’s most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to [PBS LearningMedia](#) for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. As the number one educational media brand, [PBS KIDS](#) helps children 2-8 build critical skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality content on TV — including a PBS KIDS channel — and streaming free on [pbskids.org](#) and the [PBS KIDS Video app](#), games on the [PBS KIDS Games app](#), and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [PBS.org](#), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](#). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](#) or by following [PBS Communications on X](#).

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