



Vegetables

Striped Cucumber Beetle

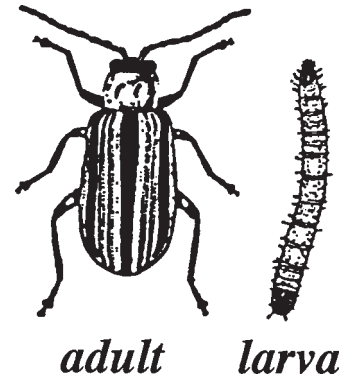
Pest Fact Sheet **20**

Introduction

The striped cucumber beetle, *Acalymma vittata* (Fab.), is one of the most devastating pests of cucurbits (squash, cucumber, melon) in the US east of the Rocky Mountains. Both the adult and larva feed on cucurbits. This insect is also responsible for the spread of diseases such as bacterial wilt and cucumber mosaic. Bacterial wilt can be severe on cucumber and cantaloupe, but less of a problem on squash and watermelon.

Description

The adult beetle is ¼" long and yellow-green color with three black longitudinal stripes on the wing covers. Eggs are small and orange-to-yellow in color. The worm-like larvae are slender, white, and about a" long when full-grown.



Life Cycle

The striped cucumber beetle overwinters as an unmated adult in the neighboring areas of old cucurbit patches, under fallen leaves, in hedgerows, near their wild food sources (goldenrod, aster), and in lawn and garden debris. The adults emerge in the early spring before cucurbits are available as food, feeding on pollen, petals and leaves of alternative hosts. Once the cucurbits begin to emerge or hot caps are removed from cucurbit seedlings, the adult beetles migrate to their preferred host. Mating occurs at this time and females lay their eggs at the base of the host plant, below the soil surface. Larvae hatch within eight to 10 days and migrate to the root system to feed upon the cucurbit roots for a period of two to six weeks, during which time they may consume the entire root system. Pupation occurs in the soil and the adults emerge in about one week. After feeding on the cucurbits, the adults return to the outlying areas for the winter.

Controls

For cucumber and cantaloupe, use control measures early, when you see the first beetles, to kill the adults and prevent the spread of wilt disease. Keep an eye open for chewing damage as the plant emerges. Be sure to follow the label for specific use instructions on various crops. **Do not use insecticides while plants are in bloom**, as they present a hazard to honeybees.

Consult your county Extension Educator (see county office telephone listing on reverse side) for specific pesticide recommendations.

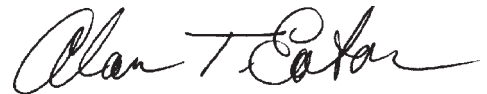
Summary

Damaging stage	Adult, larva
Plant parts attacked	Roots, leaves and fruit
Overwintering stage	Adult
Number of generations per year	One
Time of year when damage is done	May-September
Number of spray applications used	0-3

UNH Cooperative Extension County Office Telephone Numbers

Belknap (603) 527-5475	Carroll (603) 539-3331	Cheshire (603) 352-4550	Coos (603) 788-4961	Grafton (603) 787-6944
Hillsborough Goffstown (603) 641-6060	Merrimack (603) 796-2151	Rockingham Brentwood, NH 03833 (603) 679-5616	Strafford (603) 749-4445	Sullivan (603) 863-9200

Stop! It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. If unsure of registration status of a particular pesticide product, contact the NH Division of Pesticide Control at (603) 271-3550. Store pesticides in their original containers in a locked cabinet or shed away from food. Dispose of unused pesticides or empty containers safely, according to NH regulations. If you suspect pesticide poisoning, call the New Hampshire Poison Control Center at 1-800-562-8236.



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