



Tips for Managing Striped Cucumber Beetles

Description

- Adults: About 1/5 inch long, black head, yellow with three black stripes that reach to the ends of the forewings.
- Eggs: Orange-yellow, laid near the base of host plants.
- Larvae: Slender, white, dark on each end. Grows to about 1/3 inch long.



Prevention

- Delay planting cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, and melons until after early season striped cucumber beetle activity.
- Use transplants to allow plants to reach a later growth stage before beetles arrive.
- Plant wilt-resistant varieties.
- Remove other hosts, such as goldenrod and aster, growing nearby.
- Remove plant debris from the garden.

Management

- Cover up - Before adults show up (early to mid-June), put floating row cover (e.g. Remay® or Typar®) or cheesecloth over plants or shrubs. Remove covers during flowering to permit pollination.
- Look for adults daily on flowers, leaves, and stems.

- Handpick adults in the early morning and place into a bucket of soapy water.

Least Risk Pesticides

- Limit use of pesticides to protect natural predators (e.g. soldier beetles, tachinid flies, braconid wasps, certain nematodes).
- When beetles arrive apply pyrethrins (e.g. Pyganic®) or kaolin (e.g. Surround®) to repel beetles. (*No product endorsement is implied.*)
- Do not use chemical pesticides if foraging bees are present.

Further Management Options

Contact the Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office (1-800-287-0279), your county Extension office, or visit <http://www.gotpests.org/>.

Photo credits: Adult: David N. Ferro, University of Massachusetts;
Larvae: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org



<http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/ipmcouncil>

*Promoting least risk pest control for
a greener environment.*

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