

Squash Bugs



Squash bugs target all members of the cucurbit family, but are mostly found on summer squash, and pumpkins. Both adults and nymphs feed on plant tissue which causes wilting in stems and leaves. In late summer, squash bugs may also feed on the fruit of plants.

Appearance

Adults are $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, flat, and brownish-grey in color.

They lay clusters of yellow to brown eggs on the undersides of leaves.

Nymphs hatch in 7-10 days, initially having green abdomens that darken in color.

Adults are very effective at hiding, the first sign of infection is usually noticing several egg clusters.

Prevention and Control

- Frequently check underside of leaves for egg clusters and nymphs. Remove affected part of plant and dispose in the trash.
- Neem oil can be used to kill nymphs. Adults are more resistant and should be crushed by hand.
- Place wooden boards near infected plants. Adult squash bugs will hide underneath and are then easily found and killed.
- Remove old plants and debris in the fall. Adults over winter under mulch, rocks, and dead vegetation.
- Practicing crop rotation of susceptible vegetables will help reduce infestations from occurring.

