

Striped and Spotted Cucumber Beetles

Both striped and spotted cucumber beetles are found on all members of the cucurbit family, especially cucumbers, squash, and melons. Striped beetles may also feed on beans, eggplant, and potato plants.

Damage to plants is mostly caused by adults spreading diseases, including Fusarium wilt, leaf mosaic virus, and bacterial wilt.



Appearance

Adults are about $\frac{1}{4}$ " long with black heads. Spotted beetles have 12 black spots, striped beetles have 3 black stripes.

Adult beetles overwinter in organic litter and emerge in late Spring.

Yellowish-orange colored eggs are laid in clusters in the soil.

Larvae are about $\frac{1}{2}$ " long and white in color. Larvae will feed on roots and the base of plants stems, also spreading disease.



Prevention and Control

- Early control and prevention is essential, once a plant is infected with a bacterial wilt, it cannot be saved.
- Remove any organic debris from garden to prevent overwintering adults.
- Neem oil sprayed on leaves will reduce the damage from adults feeding.
- Plant susceptible crops later in the season to avoid infestations as adults emerge from the ground.
- Starting crops from transplants instead of direct seeding will allow a plant to achieve a higher crop yield before becoming affected from feeding damage and associated diseases.
- Floating row covers will protect young seedlings from infection, but they must be removed once blooms form to allow for pollination.