

Spotted Cucumber Beetle (Southern Corn Rootworm)

Diabrotica undecimpunctata howardi Barber
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

(Origin: Native)



Spotted Cucumber Beetle Adult

Primary Host: Cucurbits (cucumbers, melons, squash, gourds, pumpkins, watermelons), Corn.

Damage: Adults feed on leaves and blossoms. Feeding on young seedlings can result in stunting or death of the plant. Can transmit a bacterium that causes bacterial wilt. Larvae feed on roots.

Management:

Biocontrols: No effective ones are commercially available.

Cultural Controls: Plant corn more than 5 days after rootworm egg hatch to prevent larval feeding.

Physical Controls: Crop rotation can effectively prevent infestation. Floating row covers can protect from the adults.

Chemical Controls: Contact your local Penn State County Extension Agent for more information. <http://www.extension.psu.edu/extmap.html>

Insect Description:

Adults: Greenish-yellow with 12 black spots on wing covers. About 1/5" long.

Pupae: White pupae are in the soil near the base of the plants on which the larvae fed.

Larvae: White larvae that remain in the ground feeding on roots of the host plants.

Eggs: Orange-yellow, laid around the base of host plants, often below the soil surface.

Life History: Overwinter as adults on edges of fields or in woods under litter or other plant debris and appear as plants are set. Feed extensively on leaves and stems in early season. Eggs hatch in 5-8 days into white worm-like larvae that feed on roots. In 14-20 days, they pupate underground. Later, the adults that will overwinter emerge from the ground and feed on cucumbers and melons.



Spotted Cucumber Beetle Larvae