

# Squash Bug

*Anasa tristis* (DeGeer) (Hemiptera: Coreidae)

(Origin: Native?)



Squash Bug Adult and Eggs

**Primary Host:** Serious pest of squash, melons, pumpkins, and cucumbers.

**Damage:** Nymphs and adults suck plant juices causing leaves to wilt and die. Both will feed on developing fruit.

**Management:** Monitor to prevent population build-up. Wilted plants should be examined for squash bugs.

**Biological Controls:** A parasitoid fly (*Trichopoda pennipes*) lays eggs in the female, feeding on her inner parts.

**Cultural Controls:** Mow field edges and remove debris after harvest from around the field to kill overwintering squash bugs.

**Physical Controls:** Placing old boards in the field before cool nights often attract the bugs. Early the next morning they can be captured and eliminated.

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

## Insect Description:

**Adults:** Flat-backed bugs about  $\frac{5}{8}$ " long. Dark gray-white body with black legs and antennae. When crushed give off an unpleasant odor.

**Nymphs:** 5 nymphal stages take about 33 days to develop. Young nymphs have a red head, antennae, thorax and legs, and a green abdomen. With age, they darken and develop black legs and antennae.

**Eggs:** Oval shaped and yellowish-brown. Deposited in clusters of 4-40 eggs in rows.

**Life History:** Overwintering adults emerge in late June, feed and mate and begin laying eggs in about 10 days. Eggs hatch in about 1–2 weeks and develop into adults in about 4–6 weeks. There is no pupa stage, with each nymphal stage looking more like the adult. There is only one generation a year. Adults overwinter in protected areas.



Squash Bug Nymph