

Striped Cucumber Beetle

Acalymma vittata (F.) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

(Origin: Native)



Striped Cucumber Beetle Adult

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

Damage: Larvae feed on roots and underground stems. Adults may destroy newly emerged plants. On older plants, they feed on leaves, shoots, stems, flowers and fruits. Adults transmit a bacterium that causes bacterial wilt.

Management:

Biocontrols: No effective ones are commercially available.

Cultural Controls: Protecting plants with row covers before bloom will prevent beetle feeding and disease transmission.

Physical Controls: Yellow sticky traps about 2' above ground level may be useful when used with a bait like *Eugenol*.

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

Insect Description:

Adults: About 1/3" long; black head; yellowish body; 3 stripes on back; black abdomen. (Western Corn Rootworm has yellow abdomen).

Pupae: White pupae are underground.

Larvae: White, worm-like, with a dark head and tip of abdomen, and feed on roots; about 1/3" long.

Eggs: Yellow, oval eggs laid in soil around host plants.

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. Adult feeding may transmit the bacterium of bacterial wilt. Cantaloupes are very susceptible to this disease. Once the plant is infected, there is no control and the plant will die.



Striped Cucumber Beetle Larva