

Tarnished Plant Bug

Lygus lineolaris (Palisot de Beauvois) (Hemiptera: Miridae)

(Origin: Native)



Tarnished Plant Bug Adult

Primary Host: Beets, chard, celery, beans, potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, salsify, cucumbers.

Damage: Suck plant juices and may inject toxic saliva into plant. Leaves may become deformed, stems and petioles may be scarred and discolored, or the buds and developing fruit may be dwarfed and pitted.

Management: Damage symptoms include leaf ragging, brown, discolored tissue, premature bud drop, cat-facing and other symptoms.

Biocontrols: Several parasites are known, but the egg parasite and nymphal parasites are the most effective.

Cultural Controls: Removal of weed hosts can help reduce damage.

Physical Controls: Destroy favorable overwintering sites to reduce damage.

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

Insect Description:

Adults: Less than ¼” long; yellowish-brown head, reddish-brown wings with some black markings.

Nymph: Newly hatched are yellowish-green. As they grow, they develop yellow, green or black spots. Resemble adults without wings.

Eggs: Tiny, laid on plant surfaces, often in leaf petioles. The top of the egg where it meets the plant surface is flattened and has an opening through which the nymph emerges.

Life History: Overwintering adults can be found in dead weeds, leaf litter, under tree bark and other protected places. They become active in spring and feed on newly developing buds and shoots. Eggs are usually deposited singly and hatch in 7-10 days. The nymphs develop into adults in about 3-4 weeks. There are 4 or 5 overlapping broods each year. These are one of the most damaging of the true bugs and are known to transmit plant diseases.



Tarnished Plant Bug Nymph