Insect Pests of Vegetables & Fruit in Home Gardens



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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Common pests: i.d. & management

- Veg specialist pests (12)
- Generalist pests on veg & fruit (6)
- Fruit specialist pests (9)

Vegetable <u>specialist</u> pests

-Cucurbits (4 pests) -Cole crops (2+ pests) -Tomato etc. (2 pests) -Beans (2 pests) -Spinach (1 pest) -Asparagus (2 pests) -Corn (2 pests)

Cucumber beetles

Striped cucumber beetle

Spotted cucumber beetle





Cucumber beetles



Important damage by adults:

- Chew seedlings
- Transmit bacterial wilt
- Chew on fruit surface

Less critical damage:

- Larvae chew on roots
- Adults chew on flowers





Bacterial wilt of cucurbits

- Vectored by cucumber beetles
 - Transmitted in feces
 - Enters via <u>wound</u> in plant (such as feeding wound)



- Hosts:
 - Well-known killer of cukes & melons
 - Recently adapted to kill squash & pumpkins (but slower)

Cucumber beetle management

- For beginners
 - Mechanical control
 - Screen or row cover (seedlings)
 - Chemical control
 - Spray with carbaryl, permethrin, or pyrethrins+PBO,
- For advanced gardeners
 - Cultural control
 - Early trap crop (Turks Turban or Blue Hubbard squash)
 - Biological control
 - Conserve parasitoids (by no spray)
 - Behavioral control
 - Kairomone trap



Striped cucumber beetle

tested on pumpkin leaves, 7/5/05; 4 replicates/treatment, 5 beetles/replicate



Spotted Cucumber Beetle

tested on pumpkin leaves, 9/21/2006 3 replicates/treatment, 3 beetles/replicate



Squash vine borer

- Infests squash, gourd, pumpkins
- Plants often die by July



Squash vine borer

- Infests squash, gourd, pumpkins
- Plants often die by July



wilting leaves
 are symptom of
 infestation

adult is a day-flying moth, lays eggs in late June to mid-July

Iarva is a caterpillar that bores into stem

Squash Vine Borer: Management

- Cultural
 - -Till soil to destroy pupae
 - -Plant late for main crop
 - -Small planting early as trap crop
- Mechanical
 - -Row covers (until flowering)
- Chemical
 -Insecticide



Squash vine borer



- Chemical control:
 - During egg hatch period, early July
 - Direct at <u>base</u> of stems
 - Minimum 2 sprays 1 week apart
 - maximum 4 sprays 1 week apart, late June to late July
 - permethrin or esfenvalerate or pyrethrins+PBO



Squash bug



- Damage:
 - Suck sap from stems, leaves, fruit
 - Can kill plants
 - Nymphs can feed in large groups
- Natural enemies:
 - 1 fly species attacks adult
 - 2 wasp species attack eggs



Squash Bug: Management

- Cultural control
 - -Rotate with non-cucurbit crops
 - -Promote early growth of crop
 - -* Destroy crop remains
- Mechanical control
 - -Row covers (until flowering)
 - -Hand picking, especially eggs



-Shelter traps: board or shingle



Test question

- It's late July and my cucumber plant is dying
 - What caused it?
 - What can I do about it?
- It's late July and my squash plant is dying
 - What caused it?
 - What can I do about it?

3 Caterpillars on cole crops



Imported cabbageworm



Cabbage looper



Diamondback moth

3 Caterpillars on cole crops & their parasitoids



Imported cabbageworm







Cotesia adult wasp



Cabbage looper



Diamondback moth



Copidosoma floridanum wasps emerging from one cocoon

Diadegma insulare oviposits on larvae

Integration of Chemical Control & Biological Control

- Depends on choosing a <u>selective</u> insecticide
 - Kills caterpillars
 - Does not kill parasitoids
 - Use B.T. microbial insecticide
 - 'DiPel' etc.
 - Spinosad also easy on parasitoids
- Plant border of sweet alyssum to attract parasitoids











Row covers



Cabbage maggot

- Turnip, radish, other cole crops
- <u>Symptoms</u>:
 - Seedlings wilted, stunted
 - Holes or tunnels in roots
- Life cycle:
 - Adult fly lays egg at stem base
 - Larvae feed for 3 weeks
 - 3-4 generations per year
- <u>Control</u>:
 - Choose planting date to avoid egg peak
 - Cardboard collars on stem







Colorado potato beetle







- Damage: chewed leaves
 - -By adults & larvae
 - -Potato, eggplant, tomato
- 2 generations/year
- Control:
 - -Hand pick (knock in bucket)
 - Plant potato early or late but not both
 - -Spray larvae with spinosad

Eggplant flea beetle



- Chew many small holes in leaves
- Damage critical to seedlings
 Tea Beetles
- Management:
 - Hand-picking (aspirate) daily
 - Insecticides or repellents
- Similar species on:
 - Cabbage (2 species)
 - Potato



Removal by aspirator: Eggplant flea beetle









Bean beetles

- Bean leaf beetle:
 - Adults chew holes through leaves, pods
- Mexican bean beetle:
 - A true lady beetle
 - Larvae skeletonize leaves
- Cultural control:
 - Exclusion (row covers)
 - Plow after harvest
- Chemical control:
 - Sevin or pyrethrins+PBO



Bean leaf beetle





Bean Leaf Beetle



Field trial on snap beans

(bean leaf beetle + spotted cucumber beetle)



Spinach leafminer & beet leafminer

- Adult fly lays eggs
 - On leaf underside
 - in early spring
- Maggots feed inside leaf, 1-2 weeks
 - Narrow mine when young
 - Large blister-like mines when older
- Pupate in soil
- Several generations per year
- Hand pick infested leaves, early









Common asparagus beetle

Spotted asparagus beetle

Asparagus beetles

- Common asparagus beetle -Adults feed on spears

 - -Adults lay eggs on spears
 - -Larvae feed on leaves
- Spotted asparagus beetle -Adults feed on spears Larvae feed in berries





Asparagus beetles

- Management
 - -Hand picking
 - -Insecticides or repellents

Corn worms





1. European corn borer

- Damage at tip or shank or side
- Two generations per year
- Damage in June & August
- Worm appearance:
 - dark brown head
 - body with rows of flat spots
 - body without microspines

Corn worms



2. Corn earworm



- Damage at ear tip only
- -Damage usually mid-August & later
- -Worm appearance:
 - light brown head
 - body with long stripes
 - body covered with short microspines

Trap to Monitor Corn Earworm

- Pheromone lure
- Attracts male moths
- Highly effective
- Reports posted on web






Corn Worm Management

- Planting date:
 - Early & late plantings difficult
 - Middle plantings easiest
- Traps for monitoring
 - Excellent for corn earworm
 - Good for European corn borer
- Chemical control:
 - BT for 1st generation borer
 - Oil + BT in ear tip for earworm
 - Spinosad for both pests
- Biocontrol:
 - Encourage generalist predators
 - Trichogramma egg parasitoid

Veg & fruit generalist pests

- -Aphids
- -Mites
- -Whiteflies
- -Slugs
- -Japanese beetle
- -Brown marmorated stink bug

Aphids

• Appearance:

- Small, soft, 2 'tailpipes'
- Every species with winged & wingless forms

Damage:

- Suck sap
- Cause leaf puckers
- Deposit honeydew
- Transmit viruses









Aphids



- Common species:
 - -Potato aphid (tomato)
 - -Green peach aphid (lettuce, pepper)
 - -Melon aphid (cucurbits)
 - -Rosy apple aphid (apple)
 - -Green apple aphid (apple)

Aphid control

- Encourage natural enemies by avoiding use of broad-spectrum insecticides
- Suffocate with spray of insecticidal <u>soap</u>
- Reflective mulch to prevent colonization by winged aphids

Potato Aphid

tested on tomato leaves, 10/3/2006 3 replicates/treatment, 10 aphids/replicate





Two-spotted spider mite



- Often overlooked
- Often mistaken for disease
- Build up in hot dry weather



Two-spotted spider mite: identification





- Tiny (1/60 inch)
- White with 2 black spots
- <u>8</u> legs

Two-spotted spider mite: hosts

Tomato

-Yellow blotches



- Bean
 - -White stippling



Two-spotted spider mite: hosts

- Watermelon
 - -Yellow blotches
 - **Brown lesions**



Two-spotted spider mite: diagnosis

- Fine webbing on leaf underside
- Scout by tapping leaf over paper, look for moving specks
- Early diagnosis for good control







Spider mite management

- Tolerable at low density
- Conserve natural predators
- Overhead irrigation can help
- Soft control:
 - Insecticidal soap
 - Hort. Oil







Two-spotted spider mite

tested on snap bean leaves, 10/26/05; 3 replicates/treatment, 30 mites/replicate



Whiteflies

- Suck sap
- Life stages:
 - Adult
 - Egg
 - Crawler (1st instar)
 - Sessile nymphs
 - Pupa



- Damage done by nymphs from leaf undersides
- Control by soap sprays





Whiteflies: size

 Need magnifier to see immatures on underside of leaves



Whiteflies: hosts



tomato

beans

Whiteflies: injury symptoms





leaf scorch

sooty mold

Whiteflies: insecticides

- Best controlled by neonicotinoids
 - acetamiprid
 - imidacloprid
 - Be sure to know pre-harvest interval

Slugs

- Not insects!
- Evidence:
 - Chew leaves, stems
 - Ragged holes & tunnels
 - Leave slime trails
- Behavior:
 - Feed mostly at night
 - Hide during daytime
 - Eggs laid in fall
 - Favored by moisture, thick mulch



Slug Control

- Cultural
 - -Lower plant density
 - -Delay fall mulching



- -Remove debris around field
- Mechanical
 - -Board traps
- Control by border of abrasive material
 Diatomaceous earth (not rainfast)
- Chemical
 - -Baits on soil around plants

Slug control by baits



- Metaldehyde (Bug-Geta, etc.)
 - -Kill slugs by over stimulating mucous
 - -Prevents damage
 - -Toxic to dogs
 - -Works best when temp. warm

Slug control by baits



- Iron phosphate (Sluggo, Slug Magic, etc.)
 - -Light brown; less visible to pickers
 - Safe to humans, animals, natural enemies
 - -Less rapid toxic effect
 - -Stop the slugs from feeding
 - -Eventually leads to their death



Japanese beetle

- Attacks many crops:
 - Grape
 - Raspberry
 - Blueberry
 - Plum
 - Peach
 - Sweet corn
 - Beans
- Expect start in early July







Japanese beetle

- Insecticides
 - -Sevin (carbaryl)
 - -pyrethrins + PBO
- Traps
 - -can bring in MORE beetles
 - Do not place close to crop





Results of insecticide tests in laboratory bioassays

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Brown marmorated stink bug



Invading Ohio since 2007

BMSB detection in Ohio: in at least 50 of 88 counties as of 2017



Brown marmorated stink bug



- Attacks fruits & seed pods
- Also nuisance pest: invades homes in autumn

Hosts of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

- Fruit crop hosts:
 - Peach, apple, pear, cherry, Asian pear
 - Raspberries, blackberries, grapes
- Vegetable crops
 - Sweet corn
 - **Peppers**
 - Tomatoes
- Agronomic crops
 - Soybean
 - Corn



Brown marmorated stink bug: injury





corn



pepper



tomato

G Brust









Brown marmorated stink bug: injury on tree fruit



Tracy Leskey, USDA, 2010



Note differences in size & shape in pinned specimens side-by-side

Mechanical control of stink bugs





- Lightweight row covers
- The preferred tactic in small plantings

Stink bug control in gardens

Category	Ingredient	Common brand
pyrethroids	bifenthrin	Ortho Max Bug-G-Gon Lawn & Garden Insect Killer
	permethrin	Bonide Eight Insect Control Veg Fruit & Flower
	cyfluthrin	Bayer Advanced Garden, Triple Action Insect Killer for Lawns & Gardens
	gamma- cyhalothrin	Spectricide Triazicide Insect Killer Once & Done!
neonicotinoid	acetamiprid	Ortho Max Flower Fruit & Vegetable Insect Killer
deterrent	kaolin	Surround At Home
for nymphs, not adults	spinosad	Bonide Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew

Fruit specialist pests

-Raspberry (1 pest)

-Apple (2 pests)

-Peach (2 pests)

-Apple + peach (2 pests)

-Cherry (1 pest)

-Strawberry (1 pest)

Spotted wing Drosophila

- Looks like common vinegar flies on overripe, fallen, decaying fruit
- But the new species attacks <u>healthy</u> ripening fruit

Photo by G. Arakeliar



Invading mainland USA since 2008
Fruit injury by Spotted wing Drosophila





- Early: cherries
- Mid: raspberries, blueberries, blackberries
- Late: grapes
- strawberry, peach, plum
- cherry tomato



Management of spotted wing Drosophila

- Sanitation
 - -Strongly recommended!
 - -Destroy leftover fruit
 - Easier said than done
 - -Do every 2 days
 - -Culls in <u>clear plastic bags</u> in sun, 1 week
 - -Or bury culls 2 ft deep

Insecticides for SWD in garden raspberries & blackberries

Allowed, and PHI manageable:

- Very effective
 - spinosad, 3-day pre-harvest
 - bifenthrin, 3-day pre-harvest
 - bifenthrin + zeta-cypermethrin, 3-day PHI
- Effective

– malathion, 1-day pre-harvest

- Moderately effective

 acetamiprid, 1-day pre-harvest
- Efficacy uncertain but likely good

 pyrethrins + PBO, 0-day pre-harvest

Representative brand names

spinosad:

- Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew (Bonide)
- Entrust (Dow) OMRI®
- bifenthrin:
 - Ortho Bug B Gon Max Lawn & Garden Insect Killer
- bifenthrin + zeta-cypermethrin:
 - Ortho Bug B Gon Insect Killer for Lawns & Gardens
- acetamiprid
 - Ortho Flower Fruit & Veg. Insect Killer Concentrate
- pyrethrins + PBO

– Garden Safe: Fruit & Vegetable Insect Killer







Codling moth







- The key pest in apple fruit (& pears)
- Young larva enters fruit, tunnels to seeds at core

Codling Moth Life cycle

1st generation in May/June

2nd generation in July/August



Mechanical controls of codling moth

- Trunk bands
- Fruit bagging





Trunk bands: the idea

- Larva exits fruit
- Crawls under bark scale to pupate
- Bands offer shelter
- Destroy the shelter!



Trunk bands: 4 - 6" corrugated cardboard on trunk & main branches





Trunk bands: 4 - 6" corrugated cardboard on trunk & main branches

C. Welly

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Target	Install	Remove & destroy
1 st generation	mid-May	Late June
2 nd generation	mid-July	November

Fruit bagging

- Supplies:
 - -2-layer Japanese bags
 - -Or brown paper bags + twist ties



Fruit bagging



- Install on fruit ¹/₂ ³/₄" diameter (~2 – 3 weeks after petal-fall)
- Remove 2 weeks before harvest
- Labor intensive!



Cultural controls of codling moth

- Sanitation:
 - -Scrape cocoons from picking crates, fences
- Host reservoir elimination:

-Cut down abandoned trees

Insecticide for codling moth?



- Calendar approach:
 - Spray every 2 weeks from petalfall until harvest (= 9 sprays)
- IPM approach:
 - -Use 2 sprays @ 2 generations
 - -1st spray at 1st egg hatch
 - -2nd spray 14 days later

When do codling moth eggs hatch?

adult (moth)







- Hatch begins:
 - -2 to 3 weeks after moths begin to fly
 - -Memorial Day +/- 1 week
 - –250 degree-days (base 50°F) after moths begin sustained flight
- Use pheromone trap for moth flight
- 'Biofix' is date sustained flight begins

Insecticides for codling moth

- Organic
 - spinosad
 - **B.t.**
 - kaolin
 - azadirachtin + pyrethrins
- Conventional
 - carbaryl
 - malathion
 - acetamiprid
 - esfenvalerate
 - gamma-cyhalothrin
- Natural but not OMRI
 - pyrethrins + PBO

<u>shorter lived &</u> <u>more selective</u> <u>(narrow</u> <u>spectrum)</u>

longer lived & less selective (broad spectrum)

'Multi-purpose fruit spray'? (for insect + disease control)

malathion + carbaryl + captan

- Bonide Fruit Tree Spray Concentrate
- Gordon's Liquid Fruit Tree Spray
- pyrethrins + sulfur
 - Bonide Citrus, Fruit & Nut Orchard Spray
- pyrethrins + PBO + extract of neem oil
 - GreenLight Fruit Tree Spray Concentrate
 - Ferti-lome Fruit Tree Spray
- lambda-cyhalothrin + pyraclostrobin + boscalid
 - Bonide Fruit Tree & Plant Guard Concentrate

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beware fruit _thinning for 30 days after bloom

only organic option

kaolin: 'Surround At Home'



Apple maggot: damage



- A key pest in northern USA
- Not a pest in southern USA
- Variable in latitude of Ohio

Apple maggot: life stages





- Adult fly lays egg on fruit
- Larva tunnels through fruit
- Pupate in soil

Apple maggot: mechanical control

- Adult female fly attracted to round red object
- Sticky ball trap: 1 trap per 100 real fruit
- 'Tanglefoot'
- Clean with mineral spirits
- Optional: fruit volatile lure





Apple maggot: chemical control



- Spray every 2 weeks in July & August
- Products:
 - -acetamiprid
 - -carbaryl
 - -esfenvalerate
 - -spinosad



Oriental Fruit Moth

- 1st & 2nd broods: tunnel in terminal shoots
- 2nd & 3rd broods: tunnel in fruit





Oriental Fruit Moth in Peaches

Control Options:



- Prune flagged terminal shoots in spring
- Insecticide
 - permethrin, malathion, or Sevin
 - Most important to apply at petal-fall
 - Additional applications in all remaining cover sprays

Borers in peach trees





- Attack healthy tree at soil line
- One generation per year



 Lesser peachtree borer
 Attack injured scaffold branches
 Two generations per

year

Cultural control of borers

- Train trees to form wide angles
- Promote healthy trees
- Avoid practices that injure bark
 - -Over load of fruit
 - –Improper pruning
 - -Mowing injury
 - -Fertilizing
 - -Damage during harvest

Mechanical control of borers

'Worming'



- Effective
- Insert knife or wire into entry hole
- Smash the larvae!
- Do in early spring or late fall
- Practical in small plantings

Chemical control of borers

- Dip bare roots before planting new trees
- Insecticide drench (start year 2)
 - -Preventive via residual action
 - -<u>Curative</u> via fumigant action
- Target on tree:
 - -Soil line for peachtree borer
 - -Trunk & scaffolds for lesser PTB

Chemical control of borers

- Recent cancellation of bark drench by chlorpyrifos or endosulfan
- Foliar spray to control adult borer:
 - spinosad
 - Bonide's Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew
 - permethrin
 - Bonide's Eight
 - lambda-cyhalothrin
 - Bonide's Fruit Tree and Plant Guard Concentrate



Plum curculio

- External damage from egg-laying

 On apples
 - On plum, peach, cherry, blueberry
- Internal damage from larvae tunneling
 - In plum, peach, cherry, blueberry
 - Not in apple





Plum curculio: adult





- Hides during day
- Active at night
- Active when >65°F, humid, calm
- Falls when disturbed

Plum curculio: external damage



Egg-laying scar:
 crescent



 Late-season feeding damage: ragged hole



Plum curculio: control



- Not many effective tactics
- Mechanical :
 - Limb jarring ('beating') on first warm humid nights near petal-fall
- Chemical :
 - -permethrin at petal-fall
 - –kaolin ('Surround') at petal-fall & weekly for 2 more weeks

San Jose scale

- Sucking pest
- Injures fruit & bark
- Overwinters on bark
- Disperses to fruit in crawler stage




San Jose Scale





San Jose scale: control at <u>dormant</u> stage



In late winter or early spring:

- Use oil to smother the overwintering population on bark
- Or use lime sulfur

San Jose scale: details about oil spray



- Best before buds swell
- When temperature above freezing within a day of application
- Horticultural spray oil
- Apply <u>dilute</u> (2 oz oil in 100 oz water); spray to run-off, cover all bark

San Jose scale: post-bloom control by insecticide



- Target crawler stage
- Choices:
 - -malathion
 - -carbaryl (Sevin)
 - -insecticidal soap

San Jose scale: When are crawlers crawling?



- Start about 4-6 weeks after bloom (early June in mid-Ohio)
- Emergence lasts several weeks

San Jose scale: How to know when crawlers are crawling?

- Use black sticky tape (electrical tape)
- Wrap sticky-side out around branch
- Look for tiny bright yellow crawlers





Cherry Fruit Fly





- Similar to apple maggot
- Female fly lays eggs on fruit for 3-4 weeks in June and July

Cherry Fruit Fly



- Mechanical control by traps
 - Yellow sticky traps baited with ammonium
- Chemical control
 - –Insecticide targets adult flies
 - -carbaryl or spinosad or permethrin
 - Apply within 1 week of first fly emergence
 - -Every 10 days from June to harvest

Tarnished plant bug

- Causes fruit deformities:
 - -Strawberry:
 - Apical seediness
 - Hollow seeds
 - -Peaches:
 - 'Catfacing'
 - -Apples
 - 'Dimples'









Tarnished plant bug

- Adults feed in flower
- Nymphs feed on flower
 & fruit of strawberry







Tarnished plant bug

- Cultural control by <u>weed</u>
 management
 - Weeds are also host plants
 - Especially weeds that flower early (before strawberries bloom)
- Chemical control before & after bloom
 - permethrin
 - pyrethrins + PBO







Which fruit crops have fewest pests?

- Blueberries
- Blackberries
- Red raspberries
- Ever-bearing strawberries
- Black raspberries
- Strawberries (June-bearing)
- Grapes



Info on vegetable & fruit pest management

u.osu.edu/pestmanagement/

Questions? e-mail: <u>welty.1@osu.edu</u> office phone: 614-292-2803