

Vegetable Pests

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| Pests | Host | Description | Symptoms | Controls | |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | Cultural | Chemical |
| Aphids Many species | Many | Eggs in sheltered locations Eggs: Mostly used as an overwintering stage, females can give live birth Nymphs: Usually on underside of foliage Adults: On foliage Generations: Many per year | Suck plant juices | Lady beetle adults and larvae Aluminum foil mulch Strong steam of water | Insecticidal soaps Registered insecticides |
| Asparagus Beetle <i>Crioceris asparagi</i> | Asparagus | Blue, black, yellow, or red and black spotted beetle Overwinters: Adults in debris Eggs: Laid on plants Larvae: Feed on ferns Pupae: Live in the soil around plant Generations: Two to three a year | Feed on fern and spears | Destroy fern and debris in the fall | Insecticidal Soaps Registered insecticides |
| Blister Beetle <i>Epocauta and Meloe</i> | Many | Small black beetle that causes blistering of sensitive animal tissue. Overwinters: Larvae or pupae in soil Eggs: Laid in soil during summer Larvae: Feed on grasshopper eggs Pupae: Stay in soil Generations: One per year | Feed on leaves and flowers of plants | Shade cloth Hand picking (with gloves) | Registered insecticides |
| Cabbage Loopers <i>Trichoplusia ni</i> | Cole Crops & many others | Pale green with white lines on back and sides. Moth gray-brown with spots on forewing Overwinters: Adults on debris or structures as pupae Eggs: On host plant Larvae: Feed on foliage Pupae: On host plants or debris Generations: Three or more | Chews leaves | Hand pick | Bacillus thuringiensis Registered insecticides |
| Corn Earworm / Fruitworm <i>Heliothis zea</i> | Corn | Large green brown or red worms Overwinters: As adult in warmer regions Egg: Laid on fruit or silk Larvae: Feed on corn ears and tomato fruits Pupae: Live in the soil Generations: Two | Feed on corn silk and ears, tomato fruits and other vegetables | Hand picking | Mineral oil at base of silks Bacillus thuringiensis Registered insecticides |

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| Corn Rootworm <i>Crambus calliginosellus</i> | Corn | Larvae 1/2" long, white with brown-yellow head Overwinters: Egg stage Eggs: In soil Larvae: Feed on corn roots Pupae: In the soil Adults: Beetles feed on pollen and silks Generations: One per year | Larvae feed on corn roots causing stunting, lodging, or death | Rotate planting location yearly | Registered insecticides |
| Corn Sap Beetle <i>Carpophilus dimidiatus</i> | Corn | Small elongated black beetles Overwinters: Adults in the soil Eggs: Laid in ears of corn, usually after earworm damage. Larvae: Feed on kernels, sweeter varieties are more susceptible Pupae: Small black beetle Generations: One per year | Enter corn ear at the tip and feed on kernels | Control earworm Super sweet corns are more susceptible | Registered insecticides before they enter the ear |
| Cucumber Beetle Multiple species | Cucumbers | Small, yellow-green beetle with black stripes Overwinters: As adults in field edges Eggs: Laid in cracks at plant base Larvae: Feed on plant roots Pupae: Live in the soil Generations: Two per season | Transmit mosaic virus and bacteria Chew seedlings or ripening fruit of cucurbits | Plant more crops than needed and then thin infected plants | Registered insecticides |
| Hornworms <i>Manduca</i> species | Tomatoes, sometimes potatoes | Very large brown or green caterpillars Overwinters: In soil as pupae Eggs: On foliage of host plant Larvae: Feed on foliage Pupae: In soil Adults: Sphinx, hummingbird, and hawk moths Generations: One per year | Voracious feeders on foliage and fruit | Hand pick Clean up debris in fall Rototill in fall | Bacillus thuringiensis Registered insecticides |
| Imported Cabbage Worm <i>Pieris rapae</i> | | Soft, velvety, green with faint yellow stripes. Adult - white butterfly with black spots Overwinters: On host crucifer plants in pupal stage Eggs: Laid on host plants Larvae: Feed on foliage Pupae: On host plants Generations: Two to six per year | Chews holes in leaves | Early planting Plant red cabbage varieties Avoid mulching cabbage plantings | Bacillus thuringiensis Registered insecticides |
| Leaf Miners <i>Pegomya hyoscyami</i> | Leafy vegetables | Beetle, moth, flies, or sawfly larvae Overwinters: Pupae in soil Eggs: On underside of leaves Larvae: Mine leaf blade Pupae: In soil Generations: Three to four per year | Tunnels in foliage Large blotches on leaves | Cover plants Hand remove leaves Plant early or late | Registered insecticides |
| Mexican Bean Beetle <i>Appalachia varivestis</i> | Beans | Adult beetles yellow to copper with eight small black spots Overwinters: As adults in sheltered locations Egg: Laid on underside of leaves Larvae: Feed on foliage Pupae: Underside of bean leaf Generations: One to two per year | Larvae feed on foliage | Late planting (after June 15) | Registered insecticides |

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| Onion Maggot <i>Hylemya antiqua</i> | Onions | Leg-less white maggots. Adult - pale to dark gray flies Overwinters: As adults or pupae in soil, debris, or cull onions Eggs: Laid on plant stem or in soil next to onion Larvae: Roots, stem, and bulb Pupae: In roots or soil Generations: Several per year | Kill seedlings Damage bulbs of older plants | Rotate onion location Destroy cull onions Rototill deeply in the spring Delay planting | Registered insecticides |
| Onion Thrips <i>Thrips tabaci</i> | Onions | Tiny, thin yellow or light brown fast moving insect Overwinters: Adults and nymphs on plants or debris Eggs: On plants Nymphs: Feed on plant Pupae: In soil Generations: Four to ten per year | Sandpapered leaf surface has little chlorophyll | Water sprays Aluminum foil mulch | Insecticidal soaps Registered insecticides |
| Pea Weevil <i>Bruchus pisorum</i> | Peas | Fat white grubs with brown heads inside individual peas Overwinters: Adults in seeds and in sheltered areas Eggs: Laid on pods Larvae: In seeds Pupae: In seeds Generations: One per year | Peas are eaten inside the pod | Plant fresh seed Clean up debris in fall | Carbaryl Endosulfan |
| Potato Beetle <i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i> | Potatoes | Yellow oval beetles with black stripes Overwinters: As adult Eggs: Laid in June Larvae: Feed on leaves for several weeks Pupae: Live in soil Generations: Several | Adult beetles and larvae chew potatoes, eggplants, and tomatoes | Early planting of potatoes Plant hairy-leaved eggplants Hand picking | Most garden insecticides |
| Squash Bug <i>Anasa tristis</i> | Squash and cucurbits | Gray or brown true bug Overwinters: As adults in protected areas Eggs: Laid on plants Nymphs: On plants, usually found in small groups Adults: On plants Generations: One per year | Plant wilts then dies | Hand pick pests and egg clusters Clean up garden in the fall | Registered insecticides |
| Army worms/Cutworms <i>Spodoptera species</i> | Many | Overwinters: Adults, larvae, pupae Eggs: On host plants and debris; usually in masses Larvae: Foliage, fruit, seeds Pupae: In the soil Generations: One to three | Eat foliage and chew leaves | Hand pick Aluminum barriers Plant collars | Bacillus thuringiensis Registered insecticides |
| European Earwig <i>Forficula auricularia</i> | Many | Overwinters: Adult in protected areas Eggs: In the soil Nymphs: Small green plants, decaying matter Adult: Organic matter, ripening fruit, blossoms, foliage Generations: One per year | Feed on leaves, flowers, and corn silks | Clean up garden area Newspaper or board traps Use cooking oil in traps | Registered insecticides Baits |

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| Flea Beetle <i>Phyllotreta species</i> | Many | Overwinters: Adults in debris and weeds Eggs: In soil Larvae: Feed on roots Pupae: In soil Adult: Tiny round holes in foliage | Small round holes in leaves | Clean up garden in the fall Rototill in the fall Protective coverings on plants | Registered insecticides |
| Grasshopper <i>Melanoplus species</i> | Many | Large insects with strong back legs; yellow, brown, or green in color Overwinters: Eggs in the soil Eggs: Deposited in the soil Nymphs: Foliage Adults: Foliage Generations: One per year | Eats foliage, stems, and blossoms | Clean up vacant lots Neighborhood control efforts Floating row covers Nosema locustae | Registered insecticides |
| Leafhoppers <i>Circulifer tentellus</i> | Tomatoes | Tiny sucking insects that fly when disturbed Overwinters: As adults on host weeds (wild mustard) or in southern areas Eggs: Inserted into leaves and stems Nymphs: Feed on foliage Adults: On foliage Generations: Three per year | Spread curly top disease | Grow extra tomato plants (2 per hole) Maintain healthy plants | Insecticidal soaps Insecticides are of little value |
| Mites <i>Tetranychus</i> | Many | Small with eight legs Overwinters: Adults and immature in protective areas and debris Eggs: On underside of leaves Nymphs: On foliage Adults: On foliage Generations: Several per year | Gray foliage Dirty leaves | Predatory mites Provide adequate water Spray paint with a strong stream of water | Insecticidal soaps Miticides |
| Slugs and Snails | Many | Large, slimy creatures Overwinters: Immatures, adults in sheltered areas, eggs : Masses in moist areas Immature: In soil, organic debris, fruit in contact with soil Generations: One | Foliage eaten Seedlings destroyed | Thin plants, reduce water, trap under flat objects. Clean up debris, remove excess mulch Cottage cheese containers as traps or bait stations | Slug and snail baits |
| Whitefly Many species | Many | Small butterfly-like creature Overwinters: Southern locations, greenhouses Eggs: Underside of leaves Larvae: (crawlers) on foliage Pupae: On foliage Generations: Several per year | Sticky foliage Sooty mold on leaves Sucking insect; removes plant sap | Inspect plants as they come from greenhouses Wash plants | Insecticidal soaps Registered insecticides |
| Wireworm <i>Ctenicera species</i> | Potatoes | Brown jointed larvae of click beetle Overwinters: Adults and larva in soil Eggs: In soil Larvae: In soil for one to six years Pupae: In soil Adult: Click beetles | Potato tubers often damaged Plant roots often destroyed | Rototill in the fall Rotate crops Flooding soil | Registered insecticides |