

A Bug's Life

Cucumber beetles

Spotted cucumber beetle - *Diabrotica undecimpunctata*

Striped cucumber beetle - *Acalymma vittatum*

Fun facts

- Active in May or June on flowers until host plant is available
- Overwinter as adults in debris
- 1 generation per year

Host plants

- Cucurbits, including squash, cucumber and melons

Identification

Damage: Vector of bacterial wilt, defoliate plants, girdle stem, stunted growth, plant death

Beetles: 1/5" long, yellow to yellowish-green wing covers, black antennae

Spotted: 12 black spots

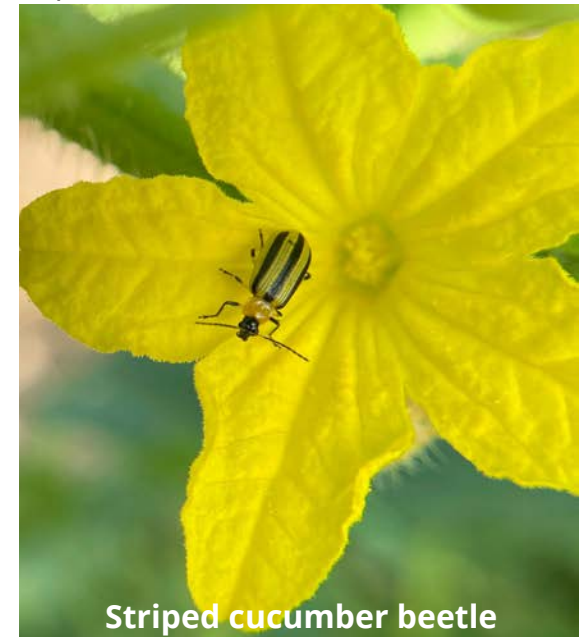
Striped: 3 black stripes

Management

- Scout early, wilting spreads rapidly
- Handpick or brush into soapy water
- Garden sanitation and fall clean up
- Plant and treat trap crop
- Install floating row covers*
- When needed, organic options include pyrethrins, neem oil and spinosad; synthetic options include carbaryl and permethrin



Spotted cucumber beetle



Striped cucumber beetle

Photos: J. Green

*Row covers should be removed or pulled back when plants flower to allow for pollination