

A Bug's Life

Squash bug

Anasa tristis

Fun facts

- Active June through August
- Overwinter as adults in debris
- Secretive, camouflaged, hide in mulch
- Feed on plant sap from leaves, stems and fruit
- All life stages found on plant

Host plants

- All cucurbits, especially squash, zucchini, melon and pumpkin

Identification

Damage: White dots (stippling), yellowing of leaves and stems, wilting, damaged fruits, plant death

Eggs: Shiny, reddish, elliptical-shaped, laid in clusters anywhere on plant (especially underside of leaf and stems)

Nymph: Young emerge green, older nymphs light gray with black legs

Adult: 5/8" long, dark brown-gray, flattened bodies, patterns at margin

Management

- Scout early and handpick adults
- Remove or destroy egg clusters
- Trap using wooden boards
- Garden sanitation and fall clean up
- Install floating row covers*
- Difficult to control when populations are high. Organic options include pyrethrins and diatomaceous earth; synthetic options include carbaryl and permethrin



Photos: J. Green

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