



Common NB Garden Problem Insects

Cucumber Beetles

These beetles can be a problem in gardens in late spring. Protect your young plants by preventing the beetles from reaching the young plants. These beetles can totally kill your cucumbers or other squash plants overnight.

Life Cycle cucumber beetles

Adult beetles overwinter in dead plant debris. Remove garden debris shortly after harvest to reduce overwintering sites. Females leave their winter sites in early spring and deposit up to 800 orange-yellow eggs in the soil near the base of plants. In about 10 days hatching occurs and the larvae feed for three or more weeks before pupating. First generation adults emerge 10 days later.

Control Strategies

Try covering with fine netting or lightweight row cover (a white thin material, can be purchased in many stores with garden centers). Cut a large square and bury edges into the soil around the plant, make it loose enough to allow for growth. A 2 L pop bottle with the bottom cut off & cap on can also prevent the beetles reaching the young plants. Watch that the plants don't get too hot in the pop bottle dome. When plant become bigger they will be fine uncovered. Uncover plants when they start to flower to allow bees to fertilize the plants. DE can be used but

NEVER USE DE (Diamotacious Earth) ON FLOWERING PLANTS, IT WILL KILL YOUR POLLINATORS

Another option is to plant late in the season past the time when the beetles are active.



Flea Beetles and Damage

Flea beetles are so named because of their ability to jump like fleas when bothered. The beetles are tiny, dark, and shiny. Eggs are laid at the base of plant stems in early summer after a feeding period, and larvae feed at the roots. Adult beetles, are about 1/16 inch long, feed on foliage, producing 'shot holes' in leaves or a lacy appearance in leaves, especially on young seedlings. They don't usually kill the plant but on occasion can spread plant disease that can. Kale and other members of this family are frequently targeted.

Control Strategies

- Homemade spray to control flea beetles: 2 cups rubbing alcohol, 5 cups water, and 1 tablespoon liquid soap. Test mixture on a leaf first, let it sit overnight, then spray the rest of the plant if you don't notice any adverse effects. Spray the mixture on the foliage of garden plants that are susceptible to these pests.

- DE can be used but **NEVER USE DE (Diamotacious Earth) ON FLOWERING PLANTS, IT WILL KILL YOUR POLLINATORS**
- In the Fall clean up the garden and dig the soil to unearth hiding beetles.

Information taken from: <https://www.almanac.com/pest/flea-beetles>

Photo Credit: University of California White Mountain Research Center. Flea beetles can cause leaves to appear lacy after they've caused a lot of damage.



FLEA BEETLE DAMAGE



SQUASH BUG ADULT AND EGGS



YOUNG SQUASH BUGS

Squash Bug

The squash bug attacks squash and pumpkins but can also attack other plants in the cucurbit family, such as cucumbers.

Squash bugs suck the sap out of leaves and cause yellow spots that later turn brown. They can cause young plants to wilt and die.

Control Strategies

- Place a board, or newspapers, in the garden at night. During the night, both adults and nymphs will congregate underneath the board making it easy in the morning to collect and dispose of them.
- It is ok to remove whole leaves to catch a large group of bugs.
- DE can be used but **NEVER USE DE (Diamotacious Earth) ON FLOWERING PLANTS, IT WILL KILL YOUR POLLINATOR**
- Practice crop rotation. Companion planting can be useful in repelling squash bugs. Try planting nasturtium and tansy around your plants that are commonly affected by squash bugs.

SOURCES:

<https://www.planetnatural.com/pest-problem-solver/garden-pests/squash-bug-control/>,
<https://www.almanac.com/pest/squash-bugs>