

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. 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
- Plant late in the season past the time when the beetles are active.
- Uncover plants when they start to flower to allow bees to fertilize the plants.

DE can be used with caution

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



Flea Beetles

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 'shotholes' 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 with caution
- In the Fall clean up the garden and dig the soil to unearth hiding beetles.

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

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

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 with caution, but squash bugs are more common later in the growing season when plants are flowering.

- 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.

NEVER USE DE (Diatomaceous Earth) ON FLOWERING PLANTS, IT WILL KILL YOUR POLLINATOR

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



SQUASH BUG ADULT AND EGGS



YOUNG SQUASH BUGS

Potato Beetle/ Colorado Potato beetle

The potato beetle is usually found on potato plants and can be found on any member of the nightshade family (eggplant, tomato, pepper). Adults overwinter in the soil and emerge in the spring. Females lay clusters of bright yellow-orange eggs on the underside of leaves.

Control Strategies

- Check the underside of all the plant leaves and remove any leaf or part of leaf that have egg clusters.
- Pick off any beetles seen, squish them or put them in a pail of soapy water.
- Never compost them if alive or they may lay eggs in the compost.
- Straw or mulch around your plants will confuse any adults that hatch in the spring, they can't find the plants.
- Thorough fall cleanup including lightly disturbing the soil to disrupt adult beetle hibernation, remove any plant debris.
- Good crop rotation



Other Pests garden pests

Aphids: Aphids suck plant sap causing damage or disease. Control aphids by attracting beneficial insects, growing trap plants that they prefer (like broad beans), companion planting (they don't like any strong-smelling plants like onions), or use organic sprays. Aphids can be knocked from plants by a spray of water.

Cutworm: Often a problem with young seedlings, cutworms circle the plant stem at soil level and cut the top off. Cutworm collars made from tissue rolls, even a toothpick beside the stem can help protect seedlings from damage.

Slugs and snails: Slugs and snail chew irregular holes in plants, they are active at night and thrive in damp areas. Make the garden inhospitable, use DE on the soil or scatter crushed eggshells or coffee grounds around plants. Delay mulching susceptible plants (lettuce, beans) while the season remains wet

Corn ear worm: Small green worms wriggling found when shucking corn cobs are likely corn earworms. The easiest solution is to place a few drops of oil (canola/olive) on the ear tip once the silk starts to dry.

Cabbage moth or worm: Cabbage worms (early stage of the small white cabbage moth) primarily damage brassicas. Use row covers to prevent moths from laying eggs on plants, or hand pick any worms once found. Soak any brassica crops in water before consuming to encourage any worms to leave the plant material.

Asparagus Beetle: Unhealthy looking asparagus spears, with damage or eggs on them is likely asparagus beetle. A thorough fall cleanup is important, attract beneficial insects and look for damage before it becomes too late

Leek Moth: These brown moths fly at night to lay their eggs on any member of the onion family. The larvae eat the plants and burrow into the plant causing damage. A thorough fall cleanup and consistent crop rotation is very important, cover crops to protect the plants is very successful.